J. Reed Sculp. 1793

The Beheading of Balboa.

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THE HISTORY OF SOUTH AMERICA.

CONTAINING THE

DISCOVERIES OF COLUMBUS,

THE

CONQUEST OF MEXICO AND PERU,

AND THE

Other Tranſactions of the SPANIARDS

IN THE

NEW WORLD.

BY THE REV. MR. COOPER.

Embelliſhed with Copper-plate Cuts.

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PREFACE.

THE Hiſtory of South America, like all other hiſtories of newly diſcovered countries, has been ſo interwoven with fable, as in ſome meaſure to deter the youthful ſtudent from employing his time in the purſuit of *Trifles*; for in that light fabulous hiſtories muſt generally be conſidered.

The Spaniſh Adventurers to the New World were moſtly illiterate men, whoſe principal purſuits were gold and ſilver. On their return to their native ſtate, their repreſentations were guided by intereſt and vanity; and, aſhamed of having made no obſervations on the rude arts, manufactures, and genius, of the people they had conquered, they fabricated ſtories the moſt wild, romantic and ridiculous, to which the Spaniſh writers of thoſe days gave a helping hand.

The literary world is undoubtedly much obliged to the labor, genius, and attention, of Dr. Robertſon, whoſe extenſive and polite connections enabled him to procure

information

information for his History of America, which few other individuals could perhaps have obtained. We have therefore carefully consulted and followed that work, by the assistance of which we may venture to say, that we have now the pleasure of laying before our youthful Readers such an epitome of *The History of South America* as may by no means be considered as fabulous, but as founded on the most authentic materials and authorities.

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THE HISTORY OF SOUTH AMERICA.

CHAP. I.

So nice and complicated are the arts of navigation and ship-building, that they require the ingenuity and experience of many succeeding ages, to bring them to any tolerable degree of perfection. The raft or canoe, which at first served to convey a savage over a river, that obstructed him in the chase, gave rise to the invention of constructing a vessel capable of carrying a number of people in safety to a distant coast. Many efforts were made, many experiments were tried, and much labour and invention employed, before this important undertaking was accomplished.

In proportion as the art of navigation encreased, men became more acquainted with

with each other, and a commercial intercourse commenced between remote nations. Men must have made some considerable advancements towards civilization, before they acquired the idea of property, and ascertained it so perfectly, as to be acquainted with the most simple of all contracts, that of exchanging by barter one rude commodity for another. However, as soon as this important right was established, and every individual felt, that he had an exclusive title to possess or alienate whatever he had acquired by his own labour or dexterity, the wants and ingenuity of his nature suggested to him, a new method of encreasing his acquisitions and enjoyments, by disposing of what appeared to him superfluous, in order to procure what was necessary or desirable in the possession of others.

As navigation and commerce extended, so in course did the intercourse of remote nations. The ambition of conquest or the necessity of procuring new settlements, were no longer the sole motives of visiting distant lands. The desire of gain became a new spur to activity, roused adventurers, and sent them out on long voyages, in the pursuit of countries, whose produce or want might encrease that circulation, which nourishes and gives vigour to commerce. Trade proved a great source of discovery, it opened unknown seas, it penetrated into new regions,

regions, and contributed more than any other cauſe, to bring men acquainted with the ſituation, the nature, and commodities of the different regions of the earth.

The ſtructure of the veſſels uſed by the ancients was very rude and imperfect, and their method of working them on the ocean was very defective. Though the property of the magnet, by which it attracts iron, was well known to the ancients, its more important and amazing virtue of pointing to the poles had entirely eſcaped their obſervation. Deſtitute of this faithful guide, which now conducts the pilot with ſo much certainty in the unbounded ocean, during the darkneſs of night, or when the heavens are covered with clouds, the ancients had no other method of regulating their courſe than by obſerving the ſun and ſtars. Their navigation was conſequently uncertain and timid. They dared not even to quit ſight of land, but crept along the coaſt, expoſed to all the dangers, and retarded by all the obſtructions anavoidable in holding ſuch an aukward courſe. An incredible length of time was requiſite for performing voyages, which are now finiſhed in a ſhort ſpace. Even in the mildeſt climates, and in the ſeas the leaſt tempeſtuous, it was only during the ſummer months that the ancients ventured

tured out of their harbours, the remainder of the year being loſt in inactivity.

The Egyptians, ſoon after the eſtabliſhment of their monarchy, are reported to have commenced a trade between the Arabian Gulph, or Red Sea, and the weſtern coaſt of the great India continent. The commodities, which they imported from the Eaſt were carried by land from the Arabian Gulph to the banks of the Nile, and conveyed down that river to the Mediterranean; but the fertile ſoil and mild climate of Egypt, producing all the neceſſaries and comforts of life, the Egyptians, had no inducements to undertake long and hazardous voyages.

The Phenicians poſſeſſed a ſpirit more favourable to commerce and diſcovery than the Egyptians. They had not, like the natives of Egypt, any diſtinguiſhing peculiarity in their manners and inſtitutions; they were not addicted to any ſingular and unſocial form of ſuperſtition, and could mingle with other nations without ſcruple or reluctance. The territory they poſſeſſed was neither large nor fertile, and commerce was the only ſource from which they could derive opulence or power. The trade, therefore, carried on by the Phenicians of Sidon and Tyre was more extenſive and enterpriſing than that of any ſtate in the ancient world. In many of the places to which they reſorted,

ted, they planted colonies, and communicated to the rude inhabitants ſome knowledge of their arts and improvements.

The Jews, encouraged by the riches they ſaw the Phenecians acquiring from commerce ſeemed deſirous to endeavour to partake of it. Solomon fitted out fleets, which under the direction of Phenician pilots, ſailed from the Red Sea to Tarſhiſh and Ophir; but the ſingular inſtitution of the Jews, the obſervance of which was enjoined by their Divine Legiſlator, with an intention of preſerving them a ſeparate people, uninfected by idolatry, prevented their being numbered among the nations, which contributed to improve navigation, or to make any material or uſeful diſcoveries.

The Carthagenians caught the ſpirit of commerce from the Phenecians and Jews. The commonwealth of Carthage applied to trade and naval affairs with the greateſt ſucceſs. They extended their navigation chiefly towards the weſt and north, and viſited not only all the coaſts of Spain, but thoſe of Gaul, and penetrated at laſt into Britain. They made conſiderable progreſs by land, into the interior provinces of Africa, traded with ſome of them, and ſubjected others to their empire. They ſailed along the weſtern coaſt of that great continent, almoſt to the tropick of Cancer, and the

placed ſeveral colonies, in order to civilize the natives, and accuſtom them to commerce.

It is evident that the Phenicians, who inſtructed the Greeks in many uſeful arts and ſciences did not communitate to them that extenſive knowledge of navigation, which they themſelves poſſeſſed; nor did the Romans imbibe that commercial ſpirit and ardour for diſcovery, which diſtinguiſhed their rivals the Carthagenians. Though Greece be almoſt encompaſſed by the ſea, which formed many ſpacious bays and commodious harbours: though it be ſurrounded by a vaſt number of fertile iſlands, yet, notwithſtanding ſuch a favourable ſituation, which ſeemed to invite that ingenious people to apply themſelves to navigation, it was long before this art attained any degree of perfection among them. Even at the time, when the Greeks engaged in the famous enterprize againſt Troy, their knowledge in naval affairs ſeems not to have been much improved. Their veſſels were of inconſiderable burthen and moſtly without decks. Theſe had only one maſt, and they were ſtrangers to the uſe of anchors. All their operations in ſailing were clumſy and unſkilful.

The expedition of Alexander the Great into the Eaſt, conſiderably enlarged the ſphere of navigation and of geographical knowledge

knowledge among the Greeks. He founded a great city, which he called Alexandria, near one of the mouths of the river Nile, that by the Mediterranean ſea, and the neighbourhood of the Arabian Gulf, it might command the trade both of the Eaſt and Weſt. This ſituation was choſen with ſuch diſcernment, that Alexandria ſoon became the chief commercial city in the world.

The progreſs made by the Romans in navigation and diſcovery, was ſtill more inconſiderable than that of the Greeks. The genius of the Roman people, their military education, and the ſpirit of their laws concurred to diſcourage them from commerce and naval affairs. It was the neceſſity of oppoſing a formidable rival, not the deſire of extending trade, which firſt prompted them to aim at maritime power.

As ſoon as the Romans acquired a taſte for the luxuries of the Eaſt, the trade with India through Egypt was puſhed with new vigour, and carried on to greater extent. By frequenting the Indian continent, navigators became acquainted with the periodical courſe of the winds, which, in the ocean that ſeparates Africa from India, blow with little variation during one half of the year from the Eaſt, and during the other half blow with equal ſteadineſs from the Weſt. Encouraged by this obſervation, they

they abandoned their ancient ſlow and dangerous courſe along the coaſt, and as ſoon as the weſtern monſoon ſet in took their departure from Ocelis, at the mouth of the Arabian Gulf, and ſtretched boldly acroſs the ocean. The uniform direction of the wind, ſupplying the place of the compaſs, and rendering the guidance of the ſtars leſs neceſſary conducted them to the port of Muſiris, on the weſtern ſhore of the Indian continent.——There they took on board their cargo, and returning with the eaſtern monſoon, finiſhed their voyage to the Arabian Gulf within the year. This part of India, now known by the name of the Malabar coaſt, ſeems to have been the utmoſt limits of ancient navigation in that quarter of the globe.

The diſcovery of this new method of ſailing to India, is the moſt conſiderable improvement in navigation made by the Romans during the continuance of their power. In ancient times, the knowledge of remote countries was more frequently acquired by land than by ſea; and the Romans, from their particular diſlike to maritime affairs, may be ſaid to have totally neglected the latter, though a much more preferable way to make diſcoveries, being more eaſy and expeditious.

If we reject fabulous and obſcure accounts, if we cloſely abide by the light and information

information of authentic history, without giving way to the conjectures of fancy, or the dreams of etymologists, we must conclude, that the knowledge which the ancients had acquired of the habitable globe was very confined and superficial. In Europe, the extensive provinces in the eastern part of Germany were little known to them. They were almost totally unacquainted with the vast countries which are now subject to the kings of Denmark, Sweden, Prussia, Poland, and the Russian empire. The more barren regions, which stretch within the arctic circle were quite unexplored. In Africa, their researches did not extend far beyond the provinces which border on the Mediterranean, and those situated on the western shore of the Arabian Gulf. In Asia, they were unacquained with all the fertile and delightful countries beyond the Ganges, which furnish the most valuable commodities for the European commerce with India; nor do they seem to have ever penetrated into those immense regions, occupied by the wandering tribes, which they called by the general name of Scythians, and now possessed by Tartars of various denominations, and by the Asiatic Russian subjects.

But however imperfect or inaccurate the geographical knowledge which the Greeks and Romans had acquired may appear, in respect of the present improved state of that science,

ſcience, their progreſs in diſcovery will ſeem conſiderable, and the extent to which they carried navigation and commerce, muſt be conſidered as great, when compared with the ignorance of early times. Geography continued to improve under the Romans ſo long as they remained in their powerful ſtate; But when the barbarians broke in upon them, the conſequence of luxury and effeminacy, the ſciences then dwindled, and diſcoveries ceaſed to be made.

Conſtantinople, after the deſtruction of the Roman empire, tho' often threatened by the fierce invaders, who ſpread deſolation over the reſt of Europe, was ſo fortunate as to eſcape their deſtructive rage. The knowledge of ancient arts and diſcovries were preſerved in that city, a taſte for ſplendour and elegance ſtill ſubſiſted, the productions and luxuries of foreign countries were in requeſt, and commerce continued to flouriſh in Conſtantinople, when it was almoſt extinct in every other part of Europe.

Much about the ſame time, a gleam of light and knowledge broke in upon the Eaſt. The Arabians, having contracted ſome reliſh for the ſciences of the people whoſe empire they had contributed to overturn, tranſlated the books of ſeveral of the Greek philoſophers into their own language. The ſtudy of geography in courſe became an early

early object of attention to the Arabians: but the acute and the ingenious people cultivated chiefly the ſpeculative and ſcientific parts of geography. In order to aſcertain the figure and dimenſions of our earth, they applied the principles of geometry, they had recourſe, to aſtronomical obſervations, and employed experiments and operations, which Europe, in more enlightened times, have eagerly adopted and imitated.

The calamities and deſolation brought upon the weſtern provinces of the Roman empire by its barbarous conquerors, by degrees were forgotten, and in ſome meaſure repaired. The rude tribes which ſettled there, acquiring inſenſibly ſome idea of regular government, and ſome reliſh for the functions and comforts of civil life. Europe awakened, in ſome degree, from its torpid and inactive ſtate, the firſt ſymptoms of which were diſcerned in Italy. The acquiſition of theſe rouſed induſtry, and gave motion and vigour to all the active powers of the human mind: foreign commerce revived, navigation was attended to, and great pains taken to improve it.

From that period, the commercial ſpirit of Italy became active and enterprizing. Venice, Genoa, and Piſa, roſe from inconſiderable towns, to be populous and wealthy cities; their naval power encreaſed, their veſſels frequented not only all the ports in the

the Mediterranean, but venturing sometimes beyond the straits, visited the maritime towns of Spain, France, the Low Countries, and England.

While the cities of Italy were thus advancing in their career of improvement, an event happened, the most extraordinary perhaps in the history of mankind, which, instead of obstructing the commercial progress of the Italians, contributed to its encrease. The martial spirit of the Europeans, heightened and inflamed by religious zeal, prompted them to attempt the deliverance of the Holy Land from the dominion of infidels. Vast armies composed of all the nations in Europe, moved towards Asia on this strange enterprise. The Genoese, Pisans and Venetians furnished the transports to carry them thither, and supplied them with provisions and military stores. Besides the immense sums which they received on this account they obtained commercial privileges and establishments. From these sources prodigious wealth flowed into the cities above mentioned. This was accompanied with a proportional increase of power, and by the end of the Holy War, Venice, in particular, became a great maritime state, possessing an extensive commerce and ample territories.

Communications being thus opened between Europe and the western provinces

of

of Aſia, ſeveral perſons were encouraged to advance far beyond the countries, in which the cruſaders carried on their operations, and to travel by land into the more remote and opulent regions of the Eaſt. The wild fanaticiſms, which ſeem at that period to have mingled in all the ſchemes of individuals, no leſs than in all the councils of nations, firſt incited men to enter upon theſe long and dangerous excurſions. They were afterwards undertaken from proſpects of commercial advantage, or from motives of mere curioſity.

In the midſt of this riſing deſire for diſcovery a very fortunate event took place, which contributed more than all the efforts and ingenuity of preceeding ages to improve and extend navigation. That wonderful property of the magnet, by which it communicates ſuch virtue to a needle or ſlender rod of iron, as to point towards the poles of the earth, was happily diſcovered. The uſe which might be made of this in directing navigation, was immediately perceived. From hence, that moſt valuable, but now familiar inſtrument, the mariners compaſs was formed. As ſoon as navigators found by means of this, that at all ſeaſons, and in every place, they could diſcover the North and South with ſo much eaſe and accuracy, it became no longer neceſſary to depend merely on the light of the

the ſtars, and the obſervation of the ſea-coaſt. They gradually abandoned their ancient timid and lingering courſe along the ſhore, launched boldly into the ocean, and relying on this new guide, could ſteer in the darkeſt night, and under the moſt cloudy ſky, with a ſecurity and preciſion hitherto unknown. The compaſs may be ſaid to have opened to man the dominion of the ſea, and to have put him in full poſſeſſion of the earth, by enabling him to viſit every part of it.

About the year 1365, Providence ſeemed to have decreed, that at this period men were to paſs the limits within which they had been ſo long confined, and open to themſelves a more ample field, wherein to diſplay their talents, their enterpriſe, and courage. The firſt conſiderable efforts towards this were not made by any of the more powerful ſtates of Europe, or by thoſe who had applied to navigation with the greateſt aſſiduity and ſucceſs. The glory of taking the lead in this bold attempt was reſerved for the Portugueſe, whoſe kingdom was the ſmalleſt and leaſt powerful of any in Europe. As the attempts of the Portugueſe to acquire the knowledge of thoſe parts of the globe, with which mankind were then unacquainted, not only improved and extended the art of navigation, but roufed ſuch a ſpirit of curioſity and

enterprize

enterprize, as led to the diſcovery of the New World, of which we are preſently to give the hiſtory.

Various circumſtances urged the Portugueſe to exert their activity in this new direction, and enabled them to accompliſh undertakings apparently ſuperior to the natural force of their monarchy. John I. King of Portugal, ſurnamed the Baſtard, having obtained ſecure poſſeſſion of the crown, in the year 1411, ſoon perceived, that it would be impoſſible to preſerve public order, or domeſtic tranquility, without finding ſome employment for the reſtleſs ſpirit of his ſubjects. With this view, he aſſembled a numerous fleet at Liſbon, compoſed of all the ſhips he could fit out in his own kingdom, and of many hired from foreigners. This great armament fitted out in 1412, was deſtined to attack the Moors ſettled on the coaſts of Barbary. While the fleet was equipping, a few veſſels were appointed to ſail along the weſtern ſhore of Africa, bounded by the Atlantic ocean, and to diſcover the unknown countries ſituated there.

The particular ſituation of Portugal was an invitation to this new undertaking, and the genius of the age being favourable to the execution of it, it proved ſucceſsful. The veſſels ſent on the diſcovery doubled the formidable Cape Non, which had terminated

minated the progreſs of former navigators, and proceeded one hundred and ſixty miles beyond it, to Cape Bojador. As its rocky cliffs, which ſtretched a conſiderable way into the Atlantic, appeared more dreadful than the promontory they had paſſed, the Portugueſe commander was afraid to attempt to ſail round it, but returned to Liſbon, more ſatisfied with having advanced ſo far, than aſhamed of not having gone further.

Though this voyage was in itſelf inconſiderable, yet it increaſed the paſſion for diſcovery, which began to ſhew itſelf in Portugal. The fortunate iſſue of the king's expedition againſt the Moors of Barbary, added ſtrength to that ſpirit in the nation, and puſhed it on to new undertakings. In order to render theſe ſucceſsful, it was neceſſary, that they ſhould be conducted by a perſon who poſſeſſed abilities capable of diſcerning what was attainable, who enjoyed leiſure to form a regular ſyſtem for proſecuting diſcovery, and who was animated with ardour, that would perſevere in ſpite of obſtacles and repulſes: happily for Portugal, ſhe found all theſe qualities in Henry duke of Viſeo, the fourth ſon of King John. That prince, in his early youth having accompanied his father in his expedition to Barbary, diſtinguiſhed himſelf by many deeds of valour. To the marſhal ſpirit,

which

which was the characteriſtic of every man of noble birth at that period, he added all the accompliſhment of a more enlightened and poliſhed age. He cultivated the arts and ſciences, which were then little known, and deſpiſed by perſons of his exalted ſituation. He was particularly fond of the ſtudy of geography, and he early acquired ſuch a knowledge of the habitable globe, as diſcovered the great probability of finding new and opulent countries, by ſailing along the coaſt of Africa.

The commencement of every new undertaking is uſually attended with trifling ſucceſs. In the year 1418, he fitted out a ſingle ſhip, and gave the command of it to two gentlemen of his houſehold, who offered themſelves as volunteers to conduct the enterpriſe. He inſtructed them to double Cape Bojador, and thence to ſteer towards the ſouth. They held their courſe along the ſhore, the mode of navigation which ſtill prevailed, when a ſudden ſquall of wind aroſe, which drove them out to ſea, and, when they expected every moment to periſh, it blew them on an unknown iſland, which, from their happy eſcape, they named Porto Santo. They inſtantly returned to Portugal with the news of their diſcovery, and were received by Henry with the applauſe and honour due to fortunate adventurers.

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The next year Henry ſent out three ſhips under the ſame commanders, in order to make a ſettlement in Porto Santo. From this iſland they obſerved towards the ſouth a fixed ſpot in the horizon, like a ſmall black cloud. They were by degrees led to conjecture it might be land, and ſteering towards it, they arrived at a conſiderable iſland, uninhabited and covered with wood, which on that account they called Madeira. As it was Henry's principal object to render his diſcoveries uſeful to his country, he immediately equiped a fleet to carry a colony of Portugueſe to theſe iſlands. He took care that they ſhould be furniſhed not only with the ſeeds, plants, and domeſtic animals common in Europe, but, as he foreſaw that the warmth of the climate and fertility of the ſoil, would prove favorable to the rearing of other productions, he procured ſlips of the vine from the iſland of Cyprus, the rich wines of which were then in great requeſt, and plants of the ſugar cane from Sicily, into which it had been recently introduced.—Theſe throve ſo proſperouſly in this new country, that the advantage of their culture was immediately perceived, and the ſugar and wine of Madeira, ſoon became conſiderable articles of commerce, from which the Portugueſe derived great advantage.

Theſe important ſucceſſes gave a ſpur to the ſpirit of diſcovery, and induced the Portugueſe,

Portugueſe, inſtead of ſervilely creeping along the coaſt, to venture into the open ſea. They doubled Cape Bojador, in 1433, and advanced within the tropics. In the courſe of a few years they diſcovered the river Senegal, and all the coaſt extending from Cape Blanco, to Cape de Verde.

The Portugueſe had hitherto been guided in their diſcoveries, or encouraged to attempt them, by the light and information they received from the works of the ancient mathematicians and geographers; but when they began to enter the torrid zone, the notions which prevailed among the ancients that the heat was ſo intenſe as to render it inſupportable, detered them, for ſome time, from proceeding. However, notwithſtanding theſe unfavorable appearances, in 1449 the Portugueſe diſcovered the Cape de Verde iſlands, which lie off the promontory of that name, and ſoon after the iſles called Azores. As the former of theſe are above three hundred miles from the African coaſt, and the latter nine hundred miles from any continent, it is evident that the Portugueſe had made great advances in the art of navigation.

The paſſion for diſcoveries received an unfortunate check by the death of Prince Henry, whoſe ſuperior knowledge had hitherto directed all the operations of the diſcoverers & whoſe patronage had encouraged

ed and protected them. However notwithſtanding all the advantages they derived from hence, the Portugueſe, during his life, did not advance, in their utmoſt progreſs towards the ſouth, within five degrees of the equinoctial line; and after their continued exertions for half a century, hardly 1500 miles of the coaſt of Africa was diſcovered.

The Portugueſe in 1471, ventured to croſs the line, and, to their aſtoniſhment, found that region of the torid zone, which was ſuppoſed to be ſcorched with intolerable heat, to the habitable, populous, and fertile.

Under the direction of John II. in 1484, a powerful fleet was fitted out, which advanced above fifteen hundred miles beyond the line, and the Portugueſe, for the firſt time beheld a new heaven, and obſerved the ſtars of another hemiſphere.

By their conſtant intercourſe with the people of Africa, they gradually acquired ſome knowledge of thoſe parts of that country, which they had not viſited. The information they received from the natives, added to what they had obſerved in their own voyages, began to open proſpects of a more extenſive nature. They found, as they proceeded ſouthward, that the continent of Africa, inſtead of extending in breadth, according to the doctrine of Ptolemy, appeared ſenſibly to contract itſelf and to bend towards the eaſt. This induced them to

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give credit to the ancient Phenician voyages round Africa, which had long been conſidered as fabulous, and gave them reaſon to hope, that by following the ſame route, they might arrive at the Eaſt Indies, and engroſs that commerce, which had ſo long contributed to enrich other powers.

In 1486, the conduct of a voyage for this purpoſe, the moſt dangerous and difficult the Portugueſe had ever embarked in, was entruſted to Barthelomew Diaz, who ſtretched boldly towards the ſouth, and proceeding beyond the utmoſt limits to which his countrymen had hitherto advanced diſcovered near a thouſand miles of a new country. Neither the combined powers of violent tempeſts, and the frequent mutinies of his crew, nor even the calamities of famine, which he ſuffered from loſing his ſtoreſhip, could deter him from the purſuit of his grand object. In ſpite of all, he at laſt diſcovered that lofty promontory, which bounds Africa to the ſouth; but he did nothing more than diſcover it. The violence of the winds, the ſhattered condition of his ſhips, and the turbulent ſpirit of his ſailors compelled him to return after a voyage of 16 months. The king of Portugal, as he now entertained no doubt of having found the long deſired route to India, gave this promontory the name of the Cape of Good Hope.

Theſe

Theſe ſanguine ideas of ſucceſs were ſtrengthened by the intelligence the king received over land, in conſequence of his embaſſy to Abyſſinia. Covillam and Payva, by the King's inſtructions, had repaired to Grand Cairo. From this city they traveled in company with a caravan of Egyptian merchants, and embarking on the Red Sea, arrived at Arden, in Arabia. There they ſeparated; Payva ſailed directly towards Abyſſinia; Covillam embarked for the Eaſt Indies, and having viſited Calecut, Goa, and other cities of the Malabar coaſt, returned to Sofala, on the eaſt ſide of Africa, and thence to Grand Cairo, which Payva and he had fixed upon as their place of meeting. The former however was unfortunately and cruelly murdered in Abyſſinia: but Covillam found at Cairo two Portugueſe Jews, whom the King of Portugal had diſpatched after them, in order to receive an account of their proceedings, and to communicate to them new inſtructions. By one of theſe Jews Covillam tranſmitted to Portugal a journal of his proceedings by ſea and land, his remarks upon the trade of India, together with exact maps of the coaſt on which he had toutched; and, from what he himſelf had obſerved, as well as from the information of ſkillful ſeamen in different countries, he concluded, that by ſailing round Africa, a paſſage might be found to the Eaſt Indies.

dies. The happy coincidence of Covillam's report and opinion with the diſcoveries lately made by Diaz, left hardly any ſhadow of doubt with reſpect to the poſſibility of ſailing from Europe. However, the vaſt length of the voyage, and the furious ſtorms, which Diaz had encountered near the Cape of Good Hope, alarmed and intimidated the Portugueſe to ſuch a degree, although they were become adventurous and ſkilful mariners, that ſome time was requiſite to prepare their minds for this dangerous and extraordinary voyage.

Memorable Events recorded in this Chapter.

Introduction of commercial purſuits.

Imperfections of navigation among the ancients.

Navigation and commerce of the Egyptians, Phenicians, Jews, Carthagenians, Greeks, and Romans.

The firſt regular plan of diſcovery formed by the Portugueſe.

The uſe of the mariners compaſs diſcovered about 1322.

The Portugueſe double Cape Bojador about the year 1412.

Attempts to diſcover a new route to the Eaſt Indies.

Voyage of Bartholomew Diaz, in 1486, *who penetrated as far as the Cape of Good Hope.*

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, a ſubject of the republic of Genoa, was among the foremoſt of thoſe foreigners whom the fame of the diſcoveries made by the Portugueſe had allured into their ſervice. Though neither the time nor place of his birth are certainly known, yet it is on all hands agreed, that he was deſcended from an honourable family reduced to indigence by misfortunes. As his anceſtors were accuſtomed to a ſeafaring life, Columbus became naturally fond of it himſelf, and very early diſcovered thoſe talents for that profeſſion, which plainly indicated the great man he was one day to be. He applied with uncommon ardour to the ſtudy of the Latin tongue, geography, aſtronomy, and the art of drawing. Thus qualified, in 1461, at the age of fourteen, he went to ſea, and began his career on that element, which conducted him to ſo much glory.

In 1467, he repaired to Liſbon, where many of his countrymen were ſettled. They ſoon conceived ſuch a favourable opinion of his merit and talents, that they warmly ſolicited him to remain in their kingdom, where his naval ſkill and experience

perience could not fail of rendering him conſpicuous.

To find out a paſſage by ſea to the Eaſt Indies, was the great object in view at that period. From the time that the Portugueſe doubled Cape de Verde, this was the point at which they aimed in all their navigations. The tedioufneſs of the courſe, which the Portugueſe were purſuing, naturally led Columbus to conſider, whether a ſhorter and more direct paſſage to the Eaſt Indies, than that projected by ſailing round the African continent, might not be found out. After revolving long and ſeriouſly every circumſtance ſuggeſted by his ſuperior knowledge in the theory, as well as practice of navigation, after comparing attentively the obſervations of modern pilots, with the hints and conjectures of ancient authors, he at laſt concluded, that by ſailing directly towards the Weſt, acroſs the Atlantic ocean, new countries, which probably formed a part of the vaſt continent of India, muſt infallibly be diſcovered.

Filled with theſe ideas, he laid his ſcheme before the ſenate of Genoa, and making his country the firſt tender of his ſervice, offered to ſail under the banners of the republic, in queſt of the new regions he expected to diſcover; but they inconſiderately

derately rejected his propoſal, as a dream of a chimerical projector. He then ſubmitted his plan to the Portugueſe, who endeavoured to rob him of the honour, by ſending another perſon privately to purſue the ſame track propoſed by him; but the pilot, choſen to execute Columbus's plan, had neither the genius nor the fortitude of its author. Contrary winds aroſe, no ſight of approaching land appeared, his courage failed, and he returned to Liſbon, execrating a plan, which he had not abilities to execute.

Columbus no ſooner diſcovered this diſhonorable treatment, than he inſtantly quitted Portugal in diſguſt, and repaired to Spain about the cloſe of the year 1484. Here he reſolved to propoſe it in perſon to Ferdinand and Iſabella, who at that time governed the united kingdoms of Caſtile and Arragon. He alſo ſent his brother to England, to propoſe his plan to Henry VIII.

After a long ſucceſſion of mortifying circumſtances and diſappointments, Iſabella was perſuaded to ſend for Columbus to court. The cordial reception he there met with from the queen, together with the near proſpect of ſetting out upon that voyage, which had ſo long been the object of his thoughts and wiſhes, ſoon effaced

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the remembrance of all that he had ſuffered in Spain, during eight tedious years of ſolicitation and ſuſpence. The negociation now went forward rapidly, and a treaty with Columbus was ſigned on the 17th of April, 1492.

The chief articles of it were, 1. Ferdinand and Iſabella, as ſovereigns of the ocean, conſtituted Columbus their high admiral in all the ſeas, iſlands, and continents, which ſhould be diſcovered by his induſtry; and ſtipulated, that he and his heirs ſhould enjoy this office, with the ſame powers and prerogatives, which belonged to the high admiral of Caſtile, within the limits of his juriſdiction. 2. They appointed Columbus their viceroy in all the iſlands and continents which he ſhould diſcover: but if, for the better adminiſtration of affairs, it ſhould hereafter be neceſſary to eſtabliſh a ſeparate governor in any of thoſe countries, they authoriſed Columbus to name three perſons, of whom they would chooſe one for that office; and the dignity of viceroy, with all its immunities, was likewiſe to be hereditary in the family of Columbus. 3. They granted to Columbus and his heirs, for ever, the tenth of the free profits accruing from the productions and commerce of the countries which he ſhould diſcover.

diſcover. 4. They declared, that if any controverſy or law-ſuit ſhould ariſe with reſpect to any merchantile tranſaction in the countries which ſhould be diſcovered, it ſhould be determined by the ſole authority of Columbus, or of judges to be appointed by him. 5. They permitted Columbus to advance one eighth part of what ſhould be expended in preparing for the expedition, and in carrying on commerce with the countries which he ſhould diſcover, and entitle him, in return, to an eighth part of the profit.

Ferdinand, though his name appears conjoined with that of Iſabella in this tranſaction, refuſed to take any part in it as King of Arragon, his diſtruſt of Columbus being very violent.

After all the efforts of Iſabella and Columbus, the armament was not ſuitable, either to the dignity of the power who equipped it, or to the importance of the ſervice to which it was deſtined. It conſiſted of three veſſels. The largeſt, a ſhip of no conſiderable burden, was commanded by Columbus, as admiral, who gave it the name of Santa Maria. Of the ſecond, called the Pinta, Martin Pinzon was captain, and his brother Francis pilot. The third, named the Nigna, was under the command of Vincent Yanez Pinzon.

Theſe

These two were light vessels, hardly superior in burden or force to large boats. The sum employed in the whole of this equipment did not exceed 4000 l.

On the 3d day of August, 1492, Columbus set sail, a little before sun-rise in presence of a vast crowd of spectators, who sent up their supplications to heaven for the prosperous issue of the voyage, which they wished rather than expected. Columbus steered directly for the Canary Islands, from whence he departed on the 6th of September. In the short run to the Canaries, the ships were found to be so crazy and ill appointed, as to be very improper for a navigation, which was expected to be both long aud dangerous.

Columbus, on leaving the Canaries, held his course due west, left immediately the usual track of navigation, and stretched into unfrequented and unknown seas. By the 14th of September, the fleet was about two hundred leagues to the West of the Canary islands, at a greater distance from land than any Spaniard had been before that time. Columbus early discovered from the spirit of his followers, that he must prepare to struggle, not only with the unavoidable difficulties, which might be expected from the nature of his undertaking, but with such as were likely to

to arise from the ignorance and timidity of the people under his command. All the art and address he was master of was hardly sufficient to quell the mutinous disposition of his sailors; who grew the more turbulent, in proportion as their distance encreased from home.

On the 11th of October, Columbus was so confident of being near land, that he ordered the sails to be furled, and the ships to lie by, keeping strict watch, lest they should be driven on shore in the night. During this interval of suspence and expectation, no man shut his eyes, all kept upon deck, gazing intently towards that quarter where they expected to discover the land, which had been so long the object of their wishes. A little after midnight, the joyful sound of *land! land!* was heard from the Pinta, which kept always a-head of the other ships; but, having been so often deceived by fallacious appearantes, every man was now become slow of belief, and waited, in all the anguish of uncertainty and impatience, for the return of day.

On the 12th of October, as soon as morning dawned, all doubts and fears were dispelled. From every ship an island was seen about two leagues to the North, whose flat and verdant fields, well stored with

with wood, and watered with many rivulets, preſented the aſpect of a delightful country. The crew of the Pinta inſtantly began the *Te Deum*, as a hymn of thankſgiving to God, and were joined by thoſe of the other ſhips, with tears of joy and tranſports of congratulation. They then on their knees begged pardon of Columbus for the mutinous ſpirit they had ſhewn, acknowledged his ſuperior abilities, and promiſed implicit obedience to his will in future.

The boats being manned and armed as ſoon as the ſun aroſe, they rowed towards the iſland with their colours diſplayed, warlike muſic, and other martial pomp. As they approached the coaſt, they ſaw it covered with a multitude of people, whom the novelty of the ſpectacle had drawn together, whoſe attitudes and geſtures expreſſed wonder and aſtoniſhment at the ſtrange objects before them. He landed in a rich dreſs, with a ſword in his hand. His men followed, and kneeling down, they all kiſſed the ground which they had ſo long deſired to ſee. They then took ſolemn poſſeſſion of the country for the crown of Caſtile and Leon.

The dreſs of the Spaniards, the whiteneſs of their ſkins, their beards, their arms, a peared ſtrange and ſurpriſing to the natives.

natives. The vaſt machines in which they had traverſed the ocean, that ſeemed to move upon the water with wings, and uttered a dreadful ſound reſembling thunder, accompanied with lightning & ſmoke, ſtruck them with ſuch terror, that they began to conſider them as children of the Sun, who had deſcended to viſit mortals here below.

The Spaniards were no leſs ſurpriſed at the novelty of their ſituation. Every herb, ſhrub, and tree, was different from thoſe which flouriſhed in Europe. The inhabitants appeared in the ſimple innocence of nature, entirely naked. Their black hair, long and uncurled, floated upon their ſhoulders, or was bound in treſſes round their heads. They had no beards, and every part of their bodies was perfectly ſmooth. Their complexion was of a duſky copper colour, their features ſingular, rather than diſagreeable, and their aſpect gentle and timid. They were at firſt ſhy through fear, but ſoon became familiar with the Spaniards, and with tranſports of joy received from them hawks-bells, glaſs beads, or other baubles, in return for which they gave ſuch proviſions as they had, and ſome cotton yarn, the only commodity of value that they could produce. Thus in the firſt interview

view between the inhabitants of the new and old worlds, every thing was conducted amicably and to their mutual ſatisfaction.

Columbus now aſſumed the title and authority of admiral and viceroy, and called the iſland he had diſcovered San Salvador. It is one of that large cluſter of iſlands called the Lucaya or Bahama iſles. It is ſituated above 3000 miles to the weſt of Gomera, from which the ſquadron took its departure, and only four degrees to the ſouth of it.

It ſoon appeared evident to Columbus that this was but a poor place, and conſequently not the object of his purſuit. But, conformably to his theory concerning the diſcovery of thoſe regions of Aſia, which ſtretched towards the eaſt, he concluded that San Salvador was one of the iſles, which geographers deſcribed as ſituated in the vaſt ocean adjacent to India; but he was herein miſtaken. Having obſerved, that moſt of the people whom he had ſeen wore ſmall plates of gold, by way of ornament, in their noſtrils, he eagerly enquired where they got that precious metal. They pointed towards the ſouth, and made him comprehend by ſigns, that gold abounded in countries ſituated in that quarter.

In conſequence of this intelligence, he ſailed to the ſouthward and ſaw ſeveral

Iſlands.

Iſlands. He touched at thoſe of the largeſt, on which he beſtowed the names of St. Mary, Fernandina, and Iſabella; but, as all his enquiries were after gold, and none of them produced any, he made no ſtay in any of them. He afterwards diſcovered Cuba, and ſoon after fell in with Hiſpaniola.

Columbus, ſtill intent on diſcovering the mines which yield d gold, ſailed from hence on the 24th of December, 1492. The great variety of buſineſs in which he was engaged having prevented Columbus from taking any ſleep for two days, he retired at midnight to take ſome repoſe, having committed the helm to the pilot, with ſtrict injunction not to quit it for a moment. The pilot dreading no danger, careleſsly left the helm to an unexperienced cabin-boy, and the ſhip, carried away by a current, was daſhed againſt a rock. The violence of the ſhock awaked Columbus. He ran up to the deck, where all was confuſion and deſpair, he alone retaining preſence of mind. However all his endeavors were in vain; the veſſel opened near the keel, and filled ſo faſt with water that its loſs was inevitable. The boats from the Nigna ſaved the crew, and the natives in their canoes did every thing in their power to ſerve them, by whoſe

whoſe aſſiſtance they ſaved almoſt every thing that was valuable.

The diſtreſs of Columbus was at this time very great. The Pinta had ſailed away from him, and he ſuſpected was treacherouſly gone to Europe. There remained but one veſſel, and that the ſmalleſt and moſt crazy of the ſquadron, to traverſe ſuch a vaſt ocean, and carry ſo many men back to Europe. He reſolved therefore to leave a part of his crew on the iſland, that, by reſiding there, they might learn the language of the natives, ſtudy their diſpoſitions, ſearch for mines, and prepare for the commodious ſettlement of the colony, with which he propoſed to return. Having ſettled this buſineſs with his men and the natives, he built a fort, and placed in it the guns ſaved out of his own ſhip. He appointed thirty-eight of his people to remain on the iſland, under the command of Diego de Arada, and furniſhed them with every thing requiſite for the ſubſiſtence or defence of the infant colony.

Having thus ſettled matters, he left Navidad on the 4th of January, 1493, and ſtretching towards the eaſt, diſcovered and gave names to moſt of the harbors on the northern coaſt of the iſland. On the 6th he deſcried the Pinta, and ſoon came up with

with her after an abſence of ſix weeks. Pinzon endeavored to juſtify his conduct, and though Columbus was by no means ſatisfied in his own mind, yet he thought it prudent to diſſemble at preſent, and accordingly received him again into favour. Pinzon during his abſence from the admiral, had viſited ſeveral harbors in the iſlands, had acquired ſome gold by traffic with the natives, but had made no diſcovery of any importance.

Columbus now found it neceſſary, from the condition of his ſhips, and the temper of his men, to return to Europe. Accordingly, on the 16th of January, he directed his courſe towards the northeaſt, and ſoon loſt ſight of land. The voyage was proſperous to the 14th of February, when he was overtaken by ſo violent a ſtorm, that all hopes of ſurviving it were given up. At length Providence interpoſed to ſave a life reſerved for other purpoſes; and, after experiencing a ſecond ſtorm almoſt as dreadful as the firſt, he arrived at the Azores, then Liſbon, and reached Spain on the 15th of March, in the port of Palos, ſeven months and eleven days from the time when he ſet out from thence upon his voyage.

Columbus was received, on his landing with all the honours due to his great abi-

lities;

lities; and Ferdinand and Iſabella were no leſs aſtoniſhed than delighted with this unexpected event. Every mark of honor, that gratitude or admiration could ſuggeſt, was conferred upon Columbus. Letters patent were iſſued, confirming to him and his heirs all the privileges contained in the capitulation concluded at Santa Fe; his family was enobled, and the king, queen, and courtiers, treated him as a perſon of the higheſt rank. But what pleaſed him moſt was an order to equip, without delay, an armanent of ſuch force, as might enable him not only to take poſſeſſion of the countries he had already diſcovered, but to go in ſearch of thoſe more opulent regions, which he ſtill confidently expected to find.

Cautious as Ferdinand was, and averſe to every thing new and adventurous, preparations for a ſecond expediton were carried on with a rapidity unuſual in Spain, and to an extent that would be deemed not inconſiderable in the preſent age. The fleet conſiſted of ſeventeen ſhips, ſome of which were of good burthen. It had on board 1500 perſons, among whom were many of noble families, who had ſerved in honourable ſtations.

Every

Every thing being ready, Columbus ſet ſail from the bay of Cadiz on the 25th of September, 1493, and arrived at Hiſpaniola on the 22d of November. When he appeared off Navidad, from the ſtation in which he had left the thirty-eight men under the command of Arada, he was aſtoniſhed that none of them appeared, and expected every moment to ſee them runing with tranſports of joy to welcome their countrymen. But he ſoon found, that the imprudent and licentious behaviour of his men had rouſed the reſentment of the natives, who at laſt deſtroyed them all and burned their fort.

He then traced out the plan of a town in a large plain, near a ſpacious bay, and obliged every perſon to put his hand to a work on which their common ſafety depended. This riſing city, the firſt that the Europeans founded in the new World, he named Iſabella, in honour of his patroneſs the queen of Caſtile.

His followers loudly complained of being obliged to turn builders, where they expected to meet with riches and luxuries. He therefore found it neceſſary to proceed in queſt of thoſe golden ſhaddows. Having ſettled every thing reſpecting the government of the new colony in his abſence, he weighed anchor on the 24th of

of April, 1494, with one ſhip and two ſmall barks under his command. During a tedious voyage of full five months, he had a trial of almoſt all the numerous hardſhips, to which perſons of his profeſſion are expoſed, without making any diſcovery of importance, except the iſland of Jamaica.

On his return to Hiſpaniola, he met with his brother Bartholomew at Iſabella, after an abſence of near thirteen years, which gave him inexpreſſible joy. He could not have arrived more ſeaſonably, as the ſpaniards were not only threatened with famine but even with an inſurrection of the natives owing to the ſhameful liberties the new ſettlers took with the women and property of the Indians, who united their forces to drive theſe formidable invaders from the ſettlements, of which they had violently taken poſſeſſion.

On the 24th of March, Columbus took the field with his little army, which conſiſted only of 200 foot, twenty horſe, and twenty large dogs; and how ſtrange ſoever it may ſeem to mention the laſt as compoſing part of a military force, they were not perhaps the leaſt formidable and deſtructive of the whole, when employed againſt naked and timid Indians. If we

may

may believe the Spaniſh hiſtorians, the Indian army amounted to 100,000 men; but they were ignorant of the arts of war, and had nothing but clubs and arrows for their defence. Columbus attacked them during the night, and obtained an eaſy and bloody victory. Many were killed, more taken priſoners, and reduced to ſervitude; and ſo thoroughly were the reſt intimidated, that they abandoned themſelves to deſpair, conſidering their enemies as invincible.

Columbus employed ſeveral months in marching through the iſland, and in ſubjecting it to the Spaniſh government, without meeting with any oppoſition. He impoſed a tribute upon all the inhabitants above fourteen years of age. Each perſon who lived in thoſe diſtricts where gold was found, was obliged to pay quarterly as much gold-duſt as filled a hawk's bell; from thoſe in other parts of the country, twenty pounds of cotton were demanded. This was the firſt regular taxation of the Indians, and ſerved as a precedent for exactions, ſtill more exorbitant. Such an impoſition was extremely contrary to thoſe maxims which Columbus had hitherto inculcated, with reſpect to the mode of treating them.

The

The condition of the Indians became insupportable, and they endeavoured to starve the Spaniards, by destroying all the produce of the earth, and then retired to the mountains. This reduced the Spaniards to extreme want; but they received such seasonable supplies of provisions from Europe, and found so many resources in their ingenuity and industry, that they suffered no great loss of men.

Columbus finding he had many enemies in the court of Spain, resolved to return home in order to justify himself, leaving his brother Bartholomew as lieut. governor, and Francis Roldon chief justice. He was received at court, on his arrival, with so many marks of approbation, after having perfectly cleared up his conduct, as made his enemies ashamed of themselves, and it was resolved to send him on discoveries a third time.

After innumerable disappointments and delays, he sailed on his third voyage on the 30th day of May, 1398. His squadron consisted of six ships only, of no great burden, and but indifferently provided for so long and dangerous a navigation. 1498

He sailed in a different direction to what he had hitherto done, in order to fall in with the coast of India. On the 1st

of Auguſt, the man ſtationed in the round top, ſurprized them with the joyful cry of *land*. They ſtood towards it and diſcovered a conſiderable iſland, which the admiral called Trinidad, a name it ſtill retains. He did not arrive at Hiſpaniola, till the 30th of Auguſt, when he found the affairs of the colony in ſuch a ſituation as afforded him no proſpect of enjoying that repoſe, of which he ſtood ſo much in need.

Many revolutions had happened in that country during his abſence. His brother, the deputy governor, in conſequence of the advice the admiral gave him before his departure, had removed the colony from Iſabella to a more commodious ſtation, on the oppoſite ſide of the iſland, and laid the foundation of St. Domingo. The natives were ſoon after reduced to the Spaniſh yoke, which appeared ſo oppreſſive to them, that they roſe in their own defence, but were eaſily conquered. At the ſame time, Roldon, whom Columbus had placed in a ſtation, which required him to be the guardian of order and tranquility, perſuaded the colony to riſe in arms.

Such was the diſtracted ſtate of the colony when Columbus arrived at St. Domingo, but his wiſdom and moderation ſoon brought every thing to order.

While Columbus was thus engaged in the weſt, the ſpirit of diſcovery did not languiſh in Portugal. Emmanuel, who inherited the enterprizing genius of his predeceſſors, perſiſted in their grand ſcheme of opening a paſſage to the Eaſt Indies by the Cape of Good Hope, and ſoon after his acceſſion to the throne he equiped a ſquadron for that important voyage. He gave the command of it to Vaſco de Gama, a man of noble birth, poſſeſſed of virtue, prudence, and courage, equal to the ſtation. The ſquadron like all thoſe ſited out for diſcovery in the infancy of navigation, was extremely feeble, conſiſting only of three veſſels, of neither burthen nor force adequate to the ſervice.

He ſet ſail from Liſbon on the 9th of July, 1497, and ſtanding towards the South, had to ſtruggle for four months with contrary winds, before he could reach the Cape of Good Hope: Here their violenee began to abate, and during an interval of calm weather, in the latter end of November, Gama doubled that formidable promontory, which had ſo long been the boundary of navigation, and dir ſted his courſe towards the northeaſt, along the African coaſt. He touched at ſeveral ports, and after various adventures

he

came to an anchor before the city of Melcida. Gama now purſued his voyage with almoſt abſolute certainty of ſucceſs, and under the conduct of a Mahometan pilot he arrived at Calecut, upon the coaſt of Malabar, on the 22d of May, 1498.

What he beheld of the wealth, the populouſneſs, the cultivation, the induſtry, and arts of this highly civilized country, far exceeded any idea that he had formed from the imperfect accounts which the Europeans had hitherto received of it. But as he poſſeſſed neither ſufficient force to attempt a ſettlement, nor proper commodities with which he could carry on commerce of any conſequence, he haſtened back to Portugal, with an account of his ſucceſs in performing a voyage the longeſt, as well as the moſt difficult, that had ever been made ſince the firſt invention of navigation. He landed at Liſbon on the 14th of September, 1499, two years, two months, and five days from the time he left that port.

Amerigo Veſpucci, a Florentine gentleman, having accompanied Ojeda in a voyage to the new world, on his return tranſmited an account of his adventures and diſcoveries to one of his countrymen, and labouring with the vanity of a traveller to magnify his own exploits, he had the

the addreſs and confidence to frame his narrative, ſo as to make it appear, that he had the glory of having firſt diſcovered the continent in the new world. The country, of which Amerigo was ſuppoſed to be diſcoverer, came gradually to be called by his name. By the univerſal conſent of nations, America is the name beſtowed on this new quarter of the globe. The bold pretenſions of a fortunate impoſtor have robbed the diſcoverer of the new world of a diſtinction which belonged to him. The name of Amerigo has ſupplanted that of Columbus, and it is now too late to redreſs the injury.

During the laſt year of the fourteenth century, Pedro Alvarez Cabral was fitted out by the king of Portugal in order to carry on trade or attempt conqueſts in India, to which place Gama had juſt ſhewn them the way. In order to avoid the coaſt of Africa, where he was certain of meeting with variable breezes, or frequent calms, which might retard his voyage, Cabral ſtood out to ſea, and kept ſo far to the weſt, that, to his ſurprize, he found himſelf upon the ſhore of an unknown country, in the tenth degree beyond the line. The country with which he fell in belongs to that province in South America, now known by the name of Braſil.

Braſil. He landed, and having formed a very high idea of the fertility of the ſoil, and agreeableneſs of the climate, he took poſſeſſion of it for the crown of Portugal. and diſpatched a ſhip to Liſbon with an account of this event, which appeared to be no leſs important than it was unexpected.

While the Spaniards and Portugueſe were daily acquiring more enlarged ideas of the extent and opulence of that quarter of the globe which Columbus had made known to them, he himſelf, far from enjoying the tranquility and honors, with which his ſervices ſhould have been recompenſed, was ſtrugling with every diſtreſs, in which the envy and malevolence of the people under his command, or the ingratitude of the court which he ſerved could involve him.

As ſoon as the court of Spain became prejudiced againſt Columbus, a fatal reſolution was taken. Francis de Bovadilla, a knight of Calatrava, was appointed to repair to Hiſpaniola, with full powers to enquire into the conduct of Columbus; and, if he ſhould find the charge of maladminiſtration proved, to ſupercede him, and aſſume the government of the iſland, It was impoſſible to eſcape when this preposterous commiſſion, made it the intereſt

of

the judge to pronounce the perſon, whom he was ſent to try, guilty of every charge. What followed cannot at all appear ſurprizing; Columbus was ſent to Spain loaded with chains. Fortunately, his voyage to Spain was extremely ſhort, where he arrived on the 23d of November, 1500.

As ſoon as Ferdinand and Iſabella, were informed that Columbus was brought home a priſoner, and in chains, they were aſhamed of their conduct and dreaded the cenſure of all Europe. They inſtantly iſſued orders to ſet Columbus at liberty, invited him to court, and remited him money to enable him to appear there in a manner ſuitable to his rank. On his appearance at court, the modeſt manner in which he told his tale, and related his grievances, were felt by every one, the new governor of Hiſpaniola was recalled, and Ovando was ſent in his room.

While the neceſſary ſteps were taking for ſecuring the proſperity and welfare of the colony which Columbus had planted, he himſelf was engaged in the unpleaſant employment of ſoliciting the favour of an ungrateful court, and notwithſtanding all his merit and ſervices he ſolicited in vain. After attending the court of Spain for near two years, as an humble ſuitor, he found

found it impoſſible to remove Ferdinand's prejudices and apprehenſions, and perceived at length, that he laboured in vain, when he urged a claim of juſtice or merit with an intereſted, ungenerous, and unfeeling prince.

However, Columbus, at laſt, prevailed on the court of Spain to fit him out on his fourth expedition, which they were perſuaded to embark in, on the promiſed hope of his finding out a ſhorter and ſafer route to the Eaſt Indies. He accordingly ſailed from Cadiz, on the 9th of May, 1502, with only four ſmall barks, the largeſt of which did not exceed ſeventy tons in burthen. On his arrival at Hiſpaniola, he met with the moſt ungenerous treatment from Ovando, who would not ſuffer him to enter their harbours.

After various and fruitleſs attempts to diſcover a paſſage to the Indian ocean, Columbus met with all the diſaſters to which navigation is expoſed. Furious hurricanes, with violent ſtorms of thunder and lightning, threatened his deſtruction, and at laſt drove him on the coaſt of Jamaica, where his little crazy fleet was wrecked, on the 24th of June, 1503.

The diſtreſs of Columbus in this ſituation was truly lamentable, but his genius roſe above every thing. He ſupported

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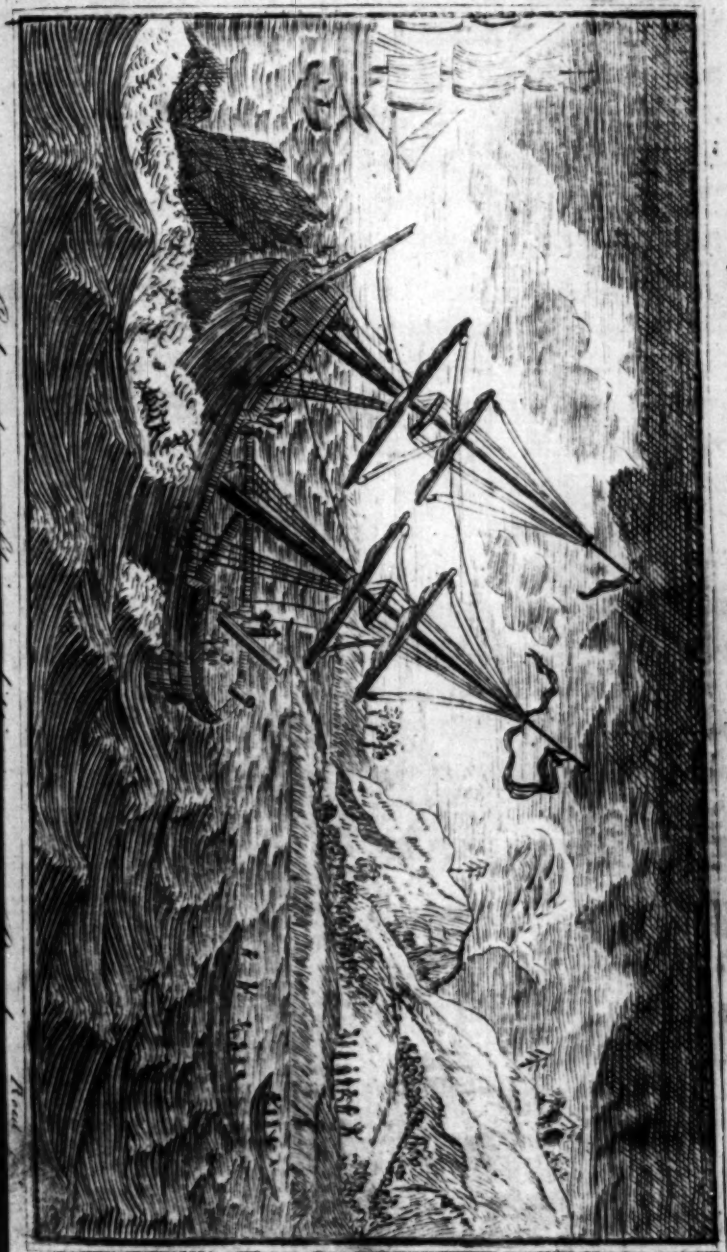

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the inſolence and cruelty of the inhabitants, the ſtill more alarming mutiny of his men, and the infamous conduct of the governor of Hiſpaniola, till ſome ſhips appeared, when the Spaniards quited an iſland in which the unfeeling jealouſy of Ovando had ſuffered them to languiſh above a year.

On the 12th of September, 1504, he ſet ſail for Spain with two ſhips, and his ill fortune purſued him even in his paſſage home, being overtaken by a ſtorm, and with the greateſt difficulty got back to Spain. On his arrival, he received the fatal news of the death of his patroneſs Queen Iſabella.

Columbus, diſguſted with the ingratitude of a monarch, whom he had ſerved with ſuch fidelity and ſucceſs, exhauſted with the fatigues and hardſhips he had endured, and broken with the infirmities theſe brought upon him, ended his life at Validolid, on the 20th of May 1506, in the 59th year of his age.

Memorable

Memorable Events recorded in this chapter.

1492 *Columbus sets out on his first voyage.*
Discovers the islands of Cuba and Hispaniola.
1493 *Columbus sets out on his second voyage.*
1494 *Discovers the island of Jamaica.*
1498 *Third voyage of Columbus.*
He discovers the continent of America.
1499 *The Portuguese sail to the East Indies, by the way of the Cape of Good Hope.*
On what account the name of America was given to the New World.
1500 *Columbus sent in chains to Spain.*
1502 *He sets out on his fourth voyage.*
Searches in vain for a passage to the East Indies.
1503 *Shipwrecked on the island of Jamaica.*
1506 *Death of Columbus.*

CHAP III.

CHAP. III.

THE colony of Hiſpaniola, before the death of Columbus, had gradually acquired the form of a regular and proſperous ſtate. The humane ſolicitude of Iſabella to protect the indians from oppreſſion, and particularly the proclamation, by which the Spaniards were prohibited to compel them to work, for ſome time, it is true, retarded the progreſs of improvement. The natives conſidering every exemption from toil as a ſupreme felicity, deſpiſed every allurement and reward by which they were invited to labour. The Spaniards were not numerous enough, either to work the mines or cultivate the ſoil, the diſtempers peculiar to the climate having carried off great numbers.

In order to ſave the colony from ruin, Ovando ventured to relax the rigour of ſome royal edicts that had been ſent to him. He made a new diſtribution of the indians among the Spaniards, and compelled them to labour for a ſtated time, in digging the mines, or in cultivating the grounds; but in order to ſcrene himſelf from the imputation of having ſubjected them again to ſervitude, he enjoined their maſters to pay them a certain ſum, as the price of their work. But the indians, after enjoying reſpite from oppreſſion, though during a ſhort interval,

now

now found the yoke of bondage to be ſo galling, that they made ſeveral attempts to vindicate their own liberty. However they were ſubdued as often as they roſe, and the treatment they received from Ovando was both cruel and treacherous.

The attention of the Spaniards was ſo much engroſſed by their operations in the mines of Hiſpaniola, that the ſpirit of diſcovery languiſhed for ſome time. In 1508 Juan Ponce de Leon, who commanded under Ovando, in the eaſtern diſtrict of Hiſpaniola, paſſed over to the iſland of St. Juan de Puerto Rico, which Columbus had diſcovered in his ſecond voyage, and penetrated into the interior parts of the country. As he found the ſoil to be fertile, and expected, from ſymptoms, as well as from the information of the inhabitants, to diſcover mines of gold in the mountains, Ovando permited him to attempt making a ſettlement in the iſland. In a few years, Puerto Rico was ſubjected to the Spaniſh government, the natives were reduced to ſervitude, and being treated with the ſame inconſiderate rigor as their neighbors in Hiſpaniola, the race of original inhabitants worn out with fatigue and ſufferings, was ſoon exterminated.

Sebaſtian de Ocampo, by the command of Ovando, ſailed round Cuba, and firſt diſcovered, with certainty, that this country, which

which Columbus once ſuppoſed to be a part of the continent was only a large iſland.

This voyage round Cuba was one of the laſt occurrences under the adminiſtration of Ovando. Ever ſince the death of Columbus, his ſon Don Diego had been employed in ſoliciting Ferdinand to grant him the offices of Viceroy and Admiral in the New World, together with all the other immunities and profits which deſcended to him by inheritance, in conſequence of the original capitulation with his father. But if theſe dignities and revenues appeared ſo conſiderable to Ferdinand, that, at the expence of being deemed unjuſt, as well as ungrateful, he had wreſted them from Columbus, it is not ſurprizing that he ſhould be unwilling to confer them on his ſon. Accordingly Don Diego waſted two years in inceſſant but fruitleſs importunity. Weary of this, he endeavoured at length to obtain, by a legal ſentence, what he could not procure from the favour of an intereſted monarch. He commenced a ſuit againſt Ferdinand before the council which managed indian affairs, and that court with an integrity which reflects honour upon its proceedings, decided againſt the king, and confirmed all the privileges ſtipulated in the capitulation. Ferdinand ſtill ſhewed his repugnance to do Diego juſtice, nor would he at laſt have done any thing had he not been in a manner forc-

ed to it by a powerful party, raiſed in conſequence of the marriage of Don Diego with Donna Maria, daughter of Don Ferdinand, great commendator of Leon, and brother of the Duke of Alva, a nobleman of the firſt rank and nearly related to the king. The duke and his family eſpouſed ſo warmly the cauſe of their new ally, that Ferdinand could not reſiſt their ſolicitations.

In 1509, he recalled Ovando, and appointed Don Diego his ſucceſſor, though even in conferring this favour he could not conceal his jealouſy; for he allowed him to aſſume only the title of governor and not that of vice-roy.

Don Diego immediately ſet off for Hiſpaniola, attended by his brother, his uncle, his wife, whom the courteſy of the Spaniards honoured with the title of Vicequeen, and a numerous retinue of both ſexes, born of good families. He lived with a ſplendor and magnificence hitherto unknown in the new world, and the family of Columbus ſeemed now to enjoy the honors and rewards due to his inventive genius of which he himſelf had been cruelly defrauded. The colony itſelf acquired new luſtre by the acceſſion of ſo many inhabitants of a different rank and character from moſt of thoſe who had hitherto emigrated to America, and many of the moſt illuſtrious families in the Spaniſh ſettlements are deſcended from the

perſons

perſons who at that time accompanied Don Diego Columbus.

Juan Diaz de Solis, about this time ſet out in conjunction with Pinzon, upon new diſcoveries. They ſailed due ſouth, towards the equinoxial line, which Pinzon had formerly croſſed, and advanced as far as the 40th degree of ſouthern latitude. They were aſtoniſhed to find that the continent of America ſtretched on the right hand, thro' all this vaſt extent of ocean. They landed in different places, to take poſſeſſion in the name of their ſovereign; but though the country appeared to be extremely fertile and inviting, their force was ſo ſmall, having been fited out rather for diſcovery than making ſettlements, that they left no colony behind them Their voyage however, ſerved to give the Spaniards more exalted and adequate ideas, with reſpect ta the dimenſions of the new world.

Private adventurers attempted to make ſettlements on the new continent; but the loſs of their ſhips by various accidents upon unknown coaſts, the diſeaſes peculiar to a climate the moſt noxious in all America, the want of proviſions, unavoidable in a country imperfectly cultivated, diſſentions among themſelves, and the inceſſant hoſtilities of the natives, involved them in a ſucceſſion of calamities, the bare recital of which would ſtrike my readers with horror.

Notwithſtanding

Notwithſtanding the unfortunate iſſue of this expedition, the Spaniards were not deterred from engaging in new ſchemes of a ſimilar nature. Juan Ponce de Leon, in 1512, fitted out three ſhips at his own expence, for a voyage of diſcovery, and his reputation ſoon drew together a reſpectable body of followers. He directed his courſe towards the Lucayo iſlands; and, after touching at ſeveral of them, as well as of the Bahama iſles, he ſtood to the South-weſt, and diſcovered a country hitherto unknown to the Spaniards, which he called Florida, either becauſe he fell in with it on Palm Sunday, or on account of its gay and beautiful appearance. He attempted to land in different places, but met with ſuch vigorous oppoſition from the natives, who were fierce and warlike, as convinced him, that an encreaſe of force was requiſite to effect a ſettlement. Satisfied with having opened a communication with a new country, of whoſe value and importance he conceived very ſanguine hopes, he returned to Puerto Rico, through the channel now known by the name of the Gulf of Florida.

Soon after the expedition to Florida, a diſcovery of much greater importance was made in another part of America, Balboa, having been raiſed to the government of the ſmall colony at Santa Maria in Darien, made frequent inroads into the adjacent country,

country, and collected a considerable quantity of gold, which abounded more in that part of the continent than in the islands. In one of these excursions, the Spaniards contended with such eagerness about the division of some gold, that they were at the point of proceeding to acts of violence against one another. A young Indian prince, who was present, astonished at the high value they set upon a thing, of which he did not discern the use, tumbled the gold out of the balance with indignation, and, turning to the Spaniards, "Why do you quarrel," (said he) "about such a trifle? If you are so passionately fond of gold, as to abandon your own country, and to disturb the tranquility of distant nations for its sake, I will conduct you to a region, where this metal, which seems to be the chief object of your admiration and desire, is so common, that the meanest utensils are formed of it."

Balboa and his companions, transported with what they heard, eagerly enquired where this happy country lay, and how they might arrive at it. He informed them, at the distance of six suns, that is, of six days journey towards the South, they should discover another ocean, near to which this wealthy kingdom was situated; but, if they intended to attack that powerful state, they must assemble forces far superior in number

and

and ſtrength to what they were at preſent. This was the firſt information which the Spaniards received concerning the ſouthern ocean, or the opulent and extenſive country known afterwards by the name of Peru.

Balboa, having muſtered all the forces he could, which amounted only to 190 men, ſet out on this important expedition on the firſt of September, 1513, about the time that the periodical rains began to abate. Though their guides had repreſented the breadth of the iſtmus to be only a journey of ſix days, they had already ſpent twenty five in forcing their way through the woods and mountains. Many of them were ready to ſink under ſuch fatigue in that ſultry climate, ſeveral were ſeized with the diſeaſes peculiar to the country, and all became impatient to reach the period of their labors and ſufferings. At length the indians aſſured them, that from the top of the next mountain they ſhould diſcover the ocean which was the object of their wiſhes. When with infinite toil they had climbed up the greater part of that ſteep aſcent, Balboa commanded his men to halt and advanced alone to the ſummit, that he might be the firſt who ſhould enjoy ſuch a ſpectacle which he had ſo long deſired. As ſoon as he beheld the South Sea ſtretching in endleſs proſpect below him, he fell on his knees, and lifting up his hands to heaven, returned thanks

thanks to God, who had conducted him to a diſcovery, ſo beneficial to his country, and ſo honorable to himſelf. His followers, obſerving his tranſports of joy, ruſhed forward to join his wonder, exultation and gratitude. They held on their courſe to the ſhore, with great alacrity, when Balboa advancing up to the middle in the waves, with his buckler and ſword, took poſſeſſion of that ocean in the name of the king his maſter, and vowed to defend it.

That part of the great Pacific or Southern ocean, which Balboa firſt diſcovered, ſtill retains the name of the Gulf of St. Michael, which he gave to it, and is ſituated to the eaſt of Panama. From ſeveral of the petty princes, who governed in the diſtricts adjacent to that gulf, he extorted proviſions and gold by force of arms; others ſent them to him voluntarily. Together with the acquiſition of this wealth, which ſerved to ſoothe and encourage his followers, he received accounts which confirmed his ſanguine hopes of future and more extenſive benefits from this expedition. All the people on the coaſts of the South Sea concurred in informing him, that there was a mighty and opulent kingdom ſituated at a conſiderable diſtance towards the ſouth-eaſt, where gold was found in plenty.

Though the information Balboa received from the people, on the coaſt, as well as his

his own conjectures and hopes, made him extremely impatient to viſit this unknown country, his prudence reſtrained him from attempting to invade it with a handful of men, exhauſted by fatigue, and weakened by diſeaſes. He determined to lead back his followers to their ſettlement at Santa Maria in Darien, and to return next ſeaſon with a force more adequate to ſuch an arduous enterprize. He reached Santa Maria after an abſence of four months, with greater glory and more treaſure, than the Spaniards ever had acquired in any former expedition in the New World.

He took care to acquaint the court of Spain with the important diſcovery he had made and demanded a reinforcement of a thouſand men, in order to attempt the conqueſt of that opulent country, concerning which he had received ſuch inviting intelligence.

The meanneſſes and jealouſies of Ferdinand, and the advice of men around him worſe than himſelf, induced him to ſupercede Balboa, the moſt proper man he could have employed, and to appoint Pedrarias Davila governor of Darien. He gave him the command of fourteen ſtout veſſels, and twelve hundred ſoldiers. Theſe were fitted out at the public expence, and granted with a liberality unuſual to Ferdinand.

Perdrarias

Perdrarias reached the gulf at Darien without any remarkable accident, in July, 1514; but his ill conduct, and baſe treatment of Balboa, ſtopped all operations, and nearly ruined this flouriſhing colony. Both parties ſent home complaints to Spain againſt each other.

At length, Ferdinand, became ſenſible of his imprudence in ſuperceeding the moſt active and experienced officer he had in the New World, and, by way of compenſation to Balboa, he appointed him lieutenant-governor of the countries upon the South Sea, with very extenſive privileges and authority, at the ſame time ordering Pedrarias to ſupport him in all his operations, and to conſult him on every meaſure which he himſelf purſued. Surely nothing could be more ridiculous and abſurd in Ferdinand than this conduct! Pedrarias now conceived the moſt implacable hatred to Balboa, and, though he afterwards ſeemed ſo far reconciled to him, as to give him his daughter in marriage, he ſoon found means falſely to accuſe him of high treaſon, had him tried, condemned, and publicly executed in 1517. Pedrarias, notwithſtanding the violence and injuſtice of his proceedings, was not only ſcreened from puniſhment by the powerful patronage of the infamous biſhop of Burgos, an inveterate enemy to real merit, but continued in the government.

While matters were thus going forward in Darien, ſeveral important events occurred with reſpect to the diſcovery, the conqueſt, and government of other provinces in the New World. Ferdinand was ſo intent upon opening a communication with the Molucca or Spice Iſlands by the weſt, that, in the year 1515, he fitted out two ſhips at his own expence, in order to attempt ſuch a voyage, and gave the command of them to Juan Diaz de Solis, who was deemed one of the moſt ſkilful navigators in Spain. He ſtood along the coaſt of South America, and on the firſt of January. 1516, he entered a river which he called Janeiro, where an extenſive commerce is now carried on. From thence he proceeded to a ſpacious bay which he ſuppoſed to be the entrance into a ſtrait that communicated with the indian ocean; but upon advancing farther, he found it to be the mouth of Rio de Plata, one of the vaſt rivers by which the ſouthern continent of America is watered. In endeavoring to make a deſcent in this county, De Sollis and ſeveral of his crew were ſlain by the natives; who, in ſight of the ſhips, cut their bodies in pieces, roaſted and devoured them. Diſcouraged by the loſs of their commander and terrified at this horrid ſpectacle, the ſurviving Spaniards ſet ſail for Europe, without aiming at any further diſcovery.

covery. Though this attempt proved abortive it was not without benefit: it turned the attention of ingenious men to this courſe of navigation, and prepared the way for a more fortunate voyage.

While diſcoveries were thus going forward, Hiſpaniola continued as their principal colony, and the ſeat of government. Don Diego Columbus wanted neither inclination or abilities to have rendered the members of this colony, who were moſt immediately under his direction, proſperous and happy; but he was circumſcribed in all his operations by the ſuſpicious policy of Ferdinand, who on every occaſion, and under the moſt frivolous pretexts, retrenched his privileges, and encouraged the treaſurer, the judges, and other ſubordinate officers, to counteract his meaſures, and to diſpute his authority. In ſhort, Ferdinand's conduct was ſo ungenerous, as obliged Don Diego to quit Hiſpaniola, and repair to Spain, in order to ſeek redreſs for his injuries

On the death of Ferdinand, in 1517, Charles V. took poſſeſſion of the government. Diego Velaſquez, who conquered Cuba in the year 1511, ſtill retained the government of that iſland, as the deputy of Don Diego Columbus, though he ſeldom acknowledged his ſuperior, and aimed at rendering his own authority altogether independent.

pendent. Under his prudent adminiſtration, Cuba became one of the moſt flouriſhing of the Spaniſh ſettlements. The fame of this drew many perſons from the other colonies, expecting there to find ſome permanent eſtabliſhment, or ſome employment for their activity. As Cuba lay to the weſt of all the iſlands poſſeſſed by the Spaniards, and as the ocean which ſtretches beyond it towards that quarter, had not hitherto been explored, theſe circumſtances naturally invited the inhabitants to attempt new diſcoveries.

An expedition for this purpoſe in which activity and reſolution might conduct to ſudden wealth, was more ſuited to the genius of the age, than the patient induſtry requiſite in clearing ground, and manufacturing ſugar. Hence it happened, that ſeveral officers who had ſerved under Pedrarias in Darien, entered into an aſſociation to undertake a voyage of diſcovery. They perſuaded Franciſco Hernandez Cordova, an opulent planter in Cuba, and a man of great courage, to join with them in the adventure, and choſe him to be their commander. Velaſquez not only approved of the deſign, but aſſiſted in carrying it on.

Three ſmall veſſels were purchaſed, and furniſhed with every thing requiſite either for traffic or war. An hundred and ten men embarked on board them, and ſailed from

from St. Jago de Cuba on the 8th of February, 1517.

On the twenty-firſt day after their departure from St Jago, they ſaw land which proved to be Cape Catoche, the eaſtern point of that large peninſula projecting from the continent of America, which ſtill retains its original name of Yucatan. As they approached the ſhore, five canoes came off full of people decently clad in cotton garments: an aſtoniſhing ſight to the Spaniards, who had found every other part of America poſſeſſed by native ſavages. Cordova endeavored by ſmall preſents to gain the good will of theſe people. They, though amazed at the ſtrange objects now preſented for the firſt time to their view, invited the Spaniards to viſit their habitations, with an appearance of cordiality. They landed accordingly, and as they advanced into the country, they obſerved with new wonder ſome large houſes built with ſtone: but they ſoon found, if the Yucatans had made progreſs in improvement beyond their countrymen, they were likewiſe more artful and warlike. Though the indian chief received Cordova with many tokens of friendſhip, he had poſted a conſiderable body of his ſubjects in ambuſh behind a thicket, who upon a ſignal given by him, ruſhed out and attacked the Spaniards with great boldneſs, and with ſome degree of

martial order. At the firſt flight of their arrows, fifteen of the Spaniards were wounded; but the indians were ſo terrified with the ſudden exploſion of the fire arms, and ſo ſurpriſed at the execution done by them, by the croſs bows, and by the other weapons of their new enemies, that they precipitately fled. Cordova immediately quitted a country where he had met with ſo unwelcome a reception, carrying off two priſoners, with the ornaments of a ſmall temple which he plundered in making his retreat to his ſhip.

Cordova continued his courſe towards the weſt without loſing ſight of the coaſt, and on the ſixteenth day arrived at Campeachy. At this place the natives received them more kindly; but the Spaniards were much ſurpriſed, that on all the extenſive coaſt along which they had ſailed, they had not met with any river. Their water beginning to fail, they advanced in hope of finding a ſupply; and at length they diſcovered the mouth of a river.

Cordova landed all his troops in order to protect the ſailors, whoſe buſineſs it was to fill the caſks; but the natives ruſhed upon them with ſuch fury, and in ſuch numbers, that forty-ſeven of the Spaniards were killed upon the ſpot, and one man only of the whole body eſcaped unhurt.—Their commander though wounded in

twelve

twelve different places, directed the retreat with preſence of mind equal to the courage with which he had led them on in the engagement, and with much difficulty they reached their ſhips. Having met with this terrible repulſe, nothing remained but to haſten back to Cuba with their ſhattered forces. In their paſſage thither, they ſuffered the greateſt diſtreſs from the want of water, that men wounded and ſickly, ſhut up in ſmall veſſels, and expoſed to the heat of the torrid zone, can be ſuppoſed to ſuffer. Some died on their paſſage and Cordova their commander, ſoon after he landed at Cuba paid the debt of nature.

Unfortunate as this expedition proved, it contributed rather to animate than damp a ſpirit of enterpr ze among the Spaniards. They had diſcovered an extenſive country, ſituated in the neighborhood of Cuba, fertile in appearance, and poſſeſſed by a people far more refined than any they had hitherto met with in America. Velaſquez, through particular views of ambition and intereſt, not only encouraged their ardor, but at his own expenſe fitted out four ſhips for the voyage. Two hundred and forty volunteers, among whom were ſeveral perſons of rank and fortune, embarked in this enterpriſe. The command of it was given to Juan de Grijalva a young man of known merit and courage, with inſtructions attentively to obſerve

ſerve the nature of the countries which he ſhould diſcover; to barter for gold; and, if circumſtances were inviting, to ſettle a colony in ſome proper ſtation. He ſailed from St Jago de Cuba, on the 8th of April, 1518.

They held the ſame courſe as in the former voyage, and at laſt reached Potonchan, where the laſt adventurers had been ſo roughly handled. The deſire of avenging their countrymen who had been ſlain there, concurred with their ideas of good policy, in prompting them to land, that they might chaſtize the Indians with ſuch exemplary rigour, as would ſtrike terror into all the people round them; but, though they diſimbarked all their troops and carried aſhore ſome field pieces, the Indians fought with ſuch courage, that the Spaniards with difficulty gained the victory: and were confirmed in their opinion, that the inhabitants of this country would prove more formidable enemies than any they had met with in other parts of America.

From Potonchan, they continued their voyage towards the weſt, keeping as near as poſſible to the ſhore, and caſting anchor every evening, from the dread of the dangerous accidents to which they might be expoſed in an unknown ſea. During the day their eyes were turned continually towards land, with a mixture of ſurprize and wonder

wonder at the beauty of the country, as well as the novelty of the objects they beheld. Many villages were ſcattered along the coaſt, in which they could diſtinguiſh houſes of ſtone that appeared white and lofty at a diſtance, One of the ſoldiers happening to remark, that this country reſembled Spain in its appearance, Grijalva, with univerſal applauſe, called it New Spain, the name which ſtill diſtinguiſhes this extenſive and opulent province of Spaniſh empire in America.

On the 9th of June, they landed in a river, which the natives called Tabaſco, and the fame of their victory at Potonchan having reached this place, the chief not only received them amicably, but beſtowed preſents upon them of ſuch value, as confirmed the higheſt ideas, which the Spaniards had formed, with reſpect to the wealth and fertility of the country. Theſe ideas were raiſed ſtill higher, by what occurred at the place where they next touched. This was conſiderably to the weſt of Tabaſco, in the province ſince known by the name of Guaxaca. There they were received with the reſpect due to ſuperior beings. The people perfumed them as they landed with gum copal, and preſented to them as offerings the choiceſt delicacies of their country. They were extremely fond of trading with their new viſitants, and in ſix days

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he Spaniards obtained ornaments of gold, of curious workmanſhip, to the value of fifteen thouſand peſos, in exchange for European toys of ſmall price. The two priſoners, whom Cordavo had brought from Yucatan, had hitherto ſerved as interpreters: but as they were unacquainted with the language of this country, the Spaniards learned from the natives by ſigns, that they were the ſubjects of a great monarch, called Montezuma, whoſe dominions extended over that and many other provinces.

Leaving this province, with which he had ſo much reaſon to be contented, Grijalva continued his courſe towards the weſt. He landed on a ſmall iſland, which he named the Iſle of Sacrifices, becauſe there the Spaniards beheld the horrid ſpectacle of human victims, which the barbarous ſuperſtitions of the natives offered to their gods. He touched at another ſmall iſland, which he called St. Juan de Ulua.

From this place he diſpatched Predo de Alverado, one of his officers, to Velaſquez, with a full account of the important diſcoveries he had made, and with all the treaſure that he had acquired by trafficking with the natives. After the departure of Alverado, he himſelf, with the remaining veſſels, proceeded along the coaſt as far as the river Panuco, the country ſtill appearing

pearing to be well peopled, fertile and opulent.

It was the opinion of ſeveral of Grijalva's officers, that it was not enough to have diſcovered thoſe delightful regions, or to have performed, at their different landing-places, the empty ceremony of taking poſſeſſion of them for the crown of Caſtile, and that their glory was incomplete, unleſs they planted a colony in ſome proper ſtation which might not only ſecure the Spaniſh nation a footing in the country; but with the reinforcements they were certain of receiving, might gradually ſubject the whole to the dominion of their ſovereign. However, the ſquadron had now been above ſix months at ſea, the greate part of their proviſions were exhauſted, and what remained of their ſtores ſo much corrupted by the heat of the climate, as to be almoſt unfit for uſe; they had loſt ſome men by death, and others were ſickly; the country was crouded with people, who ſeemed to be intelligent as well as brave, and they were under the government of one powerful monarch, who could bring them to act againſt their invaders with united force. To plant a colony under ſo many correſponding difficulties, appeared a matter too hazardous to be attempted. Though Grijalva was not without ambition and courage, yet he was deſtitute of the ſuperior abilities requiſite

quiſite to form and execute ſo extenſive a plan. He judged it more prudent to return to Cuba, having fulfilled the purpoſe of his voyage, and accompliſhed every thing, which the armament he commanded enabled him to perform. He returned to St. Jago de Cuba, on the 26th of October, from whence he had ſailed about ſix months, without having met with any material accident.

As this was the longeſt, ſo it had been the moſt ſucceſsful voyage the Spaniards had hitherto made in the new world. They had diſcovered that Yucatan was not an iſland as they had ſuppoſed, but part of the great continent of America. From Potonchan they had purſued their courſe for many hundred miles along a coaſt formerly unexplored, ſtretching at firſt towards the weſt and then turning to the north. All the country they diſcovered appeared to be no leſs valuable than extenſive. As ſoon as Avarado reached Cuba, Velaſquez, tranſported with ſucceſs ſo far beyond his moſt ſanguine expectations, immediately diſpatched a perſon of confidence to carry this important intelligence to Spain; to exhibit the rich productions of the countries which had been diſcovered by his means; and to ſolicit ſuch an increaſe of authority, as might enable and encourage him to attempt the conqueſt of them. Without waiting

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for the return of his meſſenger, or for the arrival of Grijalva, of whom he was become ſo jealous or diſtruſtful that he reſolved no longer to employ him, he began to prepare ſuch a powerful armament, as might prove equal to an enterpriſe of ſo much danger and importance. The little and mean jealouſies, which the Spaniards ſeem naturally to entertain of every man of merit, is a very ſingular blemiſh in the character of that nation.

The expedition for which Velaſquez was now preparing with ſo much ardour and activity, had in its views conqueſts far beyond what the Spaniſh nation had hitherto accompliſhed. It led them to the knowledge of a people, who, if compared with thoſe tribes of South America, and the Weſt Indies, with whom they were hitherto acquainted, were infinitely more civilized, and far better acquainted with the arts of war and the ſciences in general. Before we proceed to the hiſtory of events extremely different from thoſe we have already related, it may not be improper to take a view of the ſtate of the New World, ſuch as it was when firſt diſcovered, and to contemplate the policies and manners of the rude uncultivated tribes, by whom the different parts of it were occupied, and with whom the Spaniards at this time had intercourſe. This ſhall be the ſubject of our next chapter. *Memorable*

Memorable Events recorded in this Chapter.

1505 *War with the American Indians.*

1508 *New diſcoveries and ſettlements.*
Diego Columbus appointed governor of Hiſpaniola.

1510 *Cuba conquered.*

1512 *Florida diſcovered.*

1513 *The South Sea diſcovered.*
Pedrarias appointed governor of Darien.

1517 *Balboa executed by the order of the treacherous Pedrarias.*
Death of Ferdinand, king of Spain; ſucceeded by Charles V.
Yucatan diſcovered.

1518 *Campeachy diſcoverd.*
Grijalva diſcovers New Spain, Tobaſco, Guaxaca, and St. Juan de Ulua.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

THE immenſe extent of the New World is a circumſtance that ſtrikes us with wonder. America is remarkable, not only for its magnitude, but for its poſition. It ſtretches from the northern polar circle to a high ſouthern latitude, above fifteen hundred miles beyond the furtheſt extremity of the old continent on that ſide of the line. Next to its extent, the grandeur of the objects which it preſents to our view is moſt apt to ſtrike the eye of an obſerver. Nature ſeems to have carried on her operations upon a larger ſcale, with a bolder hand, and to have diſtinguiſhed the features of this country by a peculiar magnificence. The mountains of America are much ſuperior in height to thoſe in the other diviſions of the globe. Even the plain of Quito, which may be conſidered as the baſe of the Andes, is elevated farther above the ſea, than the top of the Pyrenees. From thoſe lofty mountains deſcend rivers proportionably large, with which the ſtreams in the ancient continent are not to be compared, either for length of courſe, or the vaſt body of water, which they roll towards the ocean. Their lakes are no leſs conſpicuous for grandeur than their mountains and rivers.

rivers. They may be properly termed inland ſeas of freſh water.

The temperature of the climate of America, and the different laws to which it is ſubject with reſpect to the diſtribution of heat and cold, are marks which particularly diſtinguiſh it from other parts of the earth. Throughout all theſe vaſt regions, there were only two monarchies remarkable for extent of territory, or diſtinguiſhed by any progreſs in improvement. The reſt of their continent was poſſeſſed by ſmall independent tribes, deſtitute of arts and induſtry, and neither capable to correct the defects, nor deſirous to meliorate the condition of that part of the earth allotted to them for their habitation. Countries, occupied by ſuch people, were almoſt in the ſame ſtate as if they had been without inhabitants.

Notwithſtanding the vaſt extent of America, and the variety of its climates, the different ſpecies of animals peculiar to it are much fewer in proportion, than thoſe of the other hemiſphere. In the iſlands, there are only four kinds of quadrupeds known, the largeſt of which did not exceed the ſize of a rabbit. On the continent, the variety was greater; and though the individuals of each kind could not fail of multiplying exceedingly, when almoſt unmoleſted by men, who were neither ſo numerous

numerous, nor ſo united in ſociety, as to be formidable enemies to the animal creation, yet the number of diſtinct ſpecies muſt be conſidered as extremely ſmall.

To the cauſes, which checked the growth and vigour of the more noble animals, may be attributed the propagation and increaſe of reptiles and inſects. The air is often darkened with clouds of inſects, and the ground covered with ſhocking and noxious reptiles.

The American birds of the torrid zone, like thoſe of the ſame climate in Aſia and Africa, are decked in plumage, which dazzles the eye with the beauty of its colours; but nature, ſatisfied with clothing them in this gay dreſs, has denied moſt of them that melody of ſound, and variety of notes, which catch and delight the ear. Let my youthful readers ſtop here, and pauſe for a while; through all the conditions and circumſtances of life, they will find, on reflection, that the hand of Providence has diſtributed things more equally than they are aware of, as well in the human, as in the feathered race.

In a continent ſo extenſive as America, the nature of the ſoil muſt be various. In each of its provinces, we find ſome diſtinguiſhing peculiarity, the deſcription of which belongs to thoſe who write their particular

hiſtory, and would be an idle attempt to deſcribe in this epitome.

How America was firſt peopled, by what courſe mankind migrated from one continent to the other, and in what quarter it is moſt probable the communication was firſt opened between them, are matters for which we have little grounds to go upon beyond that of conjecture. The theories and ſpeculations of ingenious men, with reſpect to this ſubject, would fill many volumns; but they are often ſo wild and chimerical, that it would be offering an inſult to the underſtanding of our readers, to attempt either to enumerate or refute them, even provided the limits of this work would admit of it.

To enquire into the character and condition of the American nations, at the time when they became known to the Europeans, deſerves more attentive conſideration, than the enquiry concerning their original. The diſcovery of the New World enlarged the ſphere of contemplation, and preſented nations to our view in a ſtate very rude and uncultivated. The greater part of the inhabitants were ſtrangers to induſtry and labor, ignorant of arts, imperfectly acquainted with the nature of property, and enjoying almoſt without reſtriction or controul the bleſſings which flowed ſpontaneouſly from the bounty of nature.

nature. Among the ſmall independent tribes of South America, their cuſtoms, manners and inſtitututions, were nearly ſimilar, and ſo extremely rude, that the denomination of *ſavages* may be applied to them all. The Spaniards who firſt viſited America, and who had opportunity of beholding its various tribes, while entire and unſubdued, were far from poſſeſſing the qualities requiſite for obſerving the ſtriking ſpectable preſented to their view. Neither the age in which they lived, nor the nation to which they belonged, had made ſuch progreſs in true ſcience, as inſpires enlarged and liberal ſentiments. The conquerors of the New World were moſtly illiterate adventurers, deſtitute of all the ideas which ſhould have directed them in contemplating objects, ſo extremely different from thoſe with which they were acquainted. Surrounded continually with danger, or ſtruggling with hardſhips, they had little leiſure, and leſs capacity, for any ſpeculative enquiry. Eager to take poſſeſſion of a country of ſuch extent and opulence, and happy in finding it occupied by inhabitants ſo incapable to defend it, they haſtily pronounced them to be a wretched order of men, formed merely for ſervitude; and were more employed in computing the profits of their labour, than in enquiring into the operations of their minds,

or

or the reaſon of their cuſtoms and inſtitutions.

The human body is leſs affected by climate than that of any other animal. Some animals are confined to a particular region of the globe, and cannot exiſt beyond it; while others though they may be brought to bear the injuries of a foreign climate, ceaſe to multiply when carried from their native air and ſoil. Even ſuch as ſeem capable of being naturalized in various climates, feel the effect of every remove from their proper ſtation, and gradually dwindle and degenerate from the vigor and perfection peculiar to their ſpecies. Man is the only living creature, whoſe frame is at once ſo hardy and ſo flexible, that he can ſpread over the whole earth, become the inhabitant of every region, and thrive and multiply under every climate, though not without ſome attending inconveniences

The complexion of the Americans is of a reddiſh brown, nearly reſembling the colour of copper Their perſons are of a full ſize, extremely ſtrait, and well proportioned; but they are more remarkable for agility than ſtrength. As the external form of the Americans leads us to ſuſpect that there is ſome natural debility in their frame, the ſmallneſs of their appetite for food has been mentioned by many authors as

as a confirmation of this ſuſpicion. The quantity of food which men conſume varies according to the temperature of the climate in which they live, the degree of activity which they exert, and the natural vigor of their conſtitutions. Under the enervating heat of the torrid zone, and where men paſs their days in indolence and eaſe, they require leſs nouriſhment than the active inhabitants of temperate or cold countries.

Notwithſtanding the feeble make of the Americans, hardly any of them are deformed, mutilated, or defective in any of their ſenſes. All travellers have been ſtruck with this circumſtance, and have celebrated the uniform ſymmetry and perfection of their external figure.

In the ſimplicity of the ſavage ſtate, when man is not oppreſſed with labour, or enervated by luxury, or diſquieted with care, we are apt to imagine that his life will flow on almoſt untroubled by diſeaſe or ſuffering, until his days be terminated in extreme old age, by the gradual decays of nature. We find, accordingly, among the Americans, as well as among other rude people, perſons, whoſe decrepid and ſhrivelled forms ſeem to indicate an extraordinary length of life; but as moſt of them are unacquainted with the art of numbering, and all of them as forgetful of what is paſt, as they are improvident for what is to come, it is impoſ-

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ſible to aſcertain their age with any degree of preciſion.

Whatever may be the ſituation in which man is placed he is born to ſuffer; and his diſeaſes in the ſavage ſtate, though fewer in number, are, like thoſe of the animals whom he nearly reſembles in his mode of life, more violent and more fatal. If luxury engenders and nouriſhes diſtempers of one ſpecies, the rigour and diſtreſs of ſavage life brings on thoſe of another. As men in this ſtate are wonderfully improvident, and their means of ſubſiſtence precarious, they often paſs from extreme want to exuberant plenty, according to the viciſſitudes of fortune in the chaſe, or in conſequence of the various degree of abundance, with which the earth affords to them its productions in different ſeaſons Their inconſiderate gluttony in the one ſituation, and their ſevere abſtinence in the other, are equally pernicious. The ſtrength and vigour of ſavages are at ſome ſeaſons, impaired by what they ſuffer from ſcarcity of food; at others, they are afflicted with diſorders ariſing from indigeſtions and a ſuperfluity of groſs aliment. Theſe are ſo common, that they may be conſidered as the unavoidable conſequence of their mode of ſubſiſting, and cut off conſiderable numbers in the prime of life. There are other diſorders, to which they are continually expoſed,

expoſed, owing to the inclemency of different ſeaſons. In the ſavage ſtate hardſhips and fatigues violently aſſault the conſtitution, in poliſhed ſocieties, intemperance undermines it. It is not eaſy to determine which of them operates with moſt fatal effects, or tends moſt to abridge human life.

The thoughts and attention of a ſavage are confined within the ſmall circle of objects, immediately conducive to his preſervation or enjoyment. Every thing beyond that is beneath his obſervations, or is entirely indifferent to him. Like a mere animal, what is before his eyes intereſts and affects him; what is out of ſight or at a diſtance, makes little impreſſion. They follow blindly the impulſe of the appetite they feel, but are entirely regardleſs of diſtant conſequences, and even of thoſe removed in the leaſt degree from immediate apprehenſion.

The active efforts of their minds are few and languid. The deſires of ſimple nature are very limited, and where a favourable climate yields almoſt ſpontaneouſly what ſuffices to gratify them, they ſcarcely ſtir the ſoul, or excite any violent emotion. Hence the people of ſeveral tribes in America waſte their lives in a ſtate of indolence.

To be free from occupation, ſeems to be all the enjoyment to which they aſpire. Such is their averſion to labour, that neither

er the hope of future good, nor the apprehenſion of evil, can ſurmount it. They appear equally indifferent to both, diſcovering little ſolicitude, and taking no precaution to avoid the one, or to ſecure the other. The cravings of hunger may rouſe them: but as they devour with little diſtinction, whatever will appeaſe its inſtinctive demands, the exertions theſe occaſion are of ſhort duration.

Amongſt the rudeſt tribes in America, a regular union between huſband and wife was univerſal, and the rights of marriage were underſtood and recognized. In thoſe diſtricts where ſubſiſtence was ſcanty, and the difficulty of maintaining a family was great the man confined himſelf to one wife. In warmer and more fertile provinces, the facility of procuring food concurred with the influence of climate, in inducing the inhabitants to encreaſe the number of their wives. In ſome countries, the marriage union ſubſiſted during life; in others, the impatience of the Americans under reſtraint of any ſpecies, together with their natural levity and caprice, prompted them to diſſolve it on very ſlight pretexts, and often without aſſigning any cauſe.

The ſituation of the American women, in whatever light we conſider them, was equally humiliating and miſerable. Among many people of America the marriage contract

tract is properly a purchaſe. The man buys his wife of her parents. Though unacquainted with the uſe of money, or with ſuch commercial tranſactions as take place in more improved ſociety, he knows how to give an equivalent for an object he deſires to poſſeſs. In ſome places, the ſuitor devotes his ſervice for a certain time to the parent of the maid whom he courts; in others, he hunts for them occaſionally, or aſſiſts in cultivating their fields, and forming their canoes; in others, he offers preſents of ſuch things as are deemed moſt valuable on account of their uſefulneſs or rarity. In return for theſe, he receives his wife; and this circumſtance, added to the low eſtimation of women among ſavages, leads him to conſiderher a female ſervant whom he has a title to treat as an inferior. The condition of an American woman is ſo peculiarly grievous, and their depreſſion ſo complete, that ſervitude is a name too mild to deſcribe their wretched ſtate. A wife, among moſt tribes, is no better than a beaſt of burden, deſtined to every office of labour and fatigue. While the men loiter out the day in ſloth, or ſpend it in amuſement, the women are condemned to inceſſant toil. Taſks are impoſed upon them without pity, and ſervices are received without complacence or gratiude. Every circumſtance reminds

women of this mortifying inferiority. They must approach their lords with reverence, regard them as more exalted beings, and are not permited to eat in their presence.

The Americans are not deficient in affection and attachment to their offspring. They feel the power of this instinct in its full force, and as long as their progeny continue feeble and helpless no people exceed them in tenderness and care. In the simplicity of the savage state the affections of parents, like the instinctive fondness of animals, ceases almost entirely as soon as their offspring attain maturity. Little instruction fits them for that mode of life to which they are destined. The parents, as if their duty were accomplished, when they have conducted their children through the helpless years of infancy, leave them afterwards at entire liberty. In an American hut, a father, a mother, and their posterity, live together like persons assembled by accident, without seeming to feel the obligation of the duties mutually arising from such connection.

Though the people of America may be all comprehendedr unde the general denomination of savage, the advances they had made in the art of procuring to themselves a certain and plentiful subsistence were very unequal. On the vast plains of South America, man appears in one of the rudest states in which he possibly can exist, several

eral tribes depending entirely upon the bounty of nature for ſubſiſtence. They diſcover no ſolicitude, they employ little foreſight, and ſcarcely exert any induſtry to ſecure what is neceſſary for their ſupport. The roots which the earth produces ſpontaneouſly, the fruits the berries and the ſeeds, which they gather in the woods, together with lizards and other reptiles, which multiply amazingly with the heat of the climate in a fat ſoil, moiſtened by frequent rains, ſupply them with food during ſome part of the year. At other times they live upon fiſh; and nature ſeems to have indulged the lazineſs of the South American tribes by her liberalities in this way. The vaſt rivers of that part of America abound with an infinite variety of delicate fiſh, and are ſo numerous as to be caught with little trouble. None but tribes contigious to great rivers can ſupport themſelves in this manner. The greater part of the American nations, diſperſed over the foreſts with which their country is covered, do not procure ſubſiſtence with the ſame facility; but are obliged to obtain it by hunting, which in many parts is their principal occupation, and which requires ſtrenuous exertions.

As game and fiſh are the principal food of the Americans, their agriculture is neither extenſive nor laborious. Their principal productions in this line are maze, manioc,

oc, plaintain, potatoes, and pimento. All the fruits of their induſtry, together with what their ſoil and climate produced ſpontaneouſly, afforded them but a ſcanty maintenance. Though their demands for food were very ſparing, they hardly raiſed what was ſufficient for their own conſumption.

In America, the word nation is not of the ſame import as in other parts of the globe. It is applied to ſmall ſocieties, perhaps not exceeding two or three hundred perſons, but occupying provinces larger than ſome kingdoms in Europe. In the provinces which border on the Oronoco, one may travel ſeveral hundred miles, in different directions, without finding a ſingle hut or obſerving the footſteps of a human creature.

The Americans had no idea of property. As the animals on which the hunter feeds are not bred under his inſpection, nor nouriſhed by his care, he can claim no right to them while they run wild in the foreſt. The foreſts, or hunting grounds, are deemed the property of the tribe, from which it has a title to exclude every rival nation; but no individual arrogates a right to any diſtrict of theſe, in preference to his fellow-citizen.

We ſhall now proceed to take a curſory view of their art of war. Savage nations, in carrying on their public wars, are influenced by the ſame ideas, and animated with the

the ſame ſpirit, as in proſecuting private vengeance. The maxims by which they regulate their military operations, though extremely different from thoſe, which take place among more civilized and populous nations, are well ſuited to their own political ſtate, and the nature of the country in which they act. They never take the field in numerous bodies, as it would require a greater effort of foreſight and induſtry, than is uſual among ſavages, to provide for their ſubſiſtence, during a march of ſome hundred miles through dreary foreſts, or during a long voyage upon their lakes and rivers.

Their armies are not encumbered with baggage or military ſtores. Each warrior, beſides his arms, carries a mat and a ſmall bag of pounded maize, and with theſe he is completely equipped for any ſervice. While at a diſtance from the enemies frontier, they diſperſe through the woods, and ſupport themſelves with the game they kill, and the fiſh they catch. The manner in which they attack their enemies, the treatment of their priſoners, and the ſurprizing fortitude they ſhew in bearing the moſt cruel tortures, being nearly the ſame among the South American Indians as among the North, we ſhall not here repeat what we have already mentioned on that head in our Hiſtory of North America.

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In the warmer and more mild climates of America, none of the rude tribes were cloathed. To moſt of them Nature had not even ſuggeſted any Idea of impropriety of being altogether uncovered. As under a mild climate there was little need of any defence from the injuries of the air, and their extreme indolence ſhunned every ſpecies of labour to which it was not urged by abſolute neceſſity, all the inhabitants of the iſles, and a conſiderable part of the people on the continent, remained in this ſtate of naked ſimplicity. Others were ſatisfied with ſome ſlight covering, ſuch as decency required; but though naked, they were not unadorned. They faſtned bits of gold or ſhells, or ſhining ſtones, to their ears, their noſes, and cheeks. They ſtained their ſkins with a great variety of figures, and they ſpent much time, and ſubmitted to great pain, in ornamenting their perſons in this fantaſtic manner.

In one part of their dreſs, which, at firſt ſight appears the moſt ſingular and capricious, the Americans have diſcovered conſiderable ſagacity in providing againſt the chief inconveniences of their climate, which is often ſultry, and moiſt to exceſs. All the different tribes, which remain unclothed, are accuſtomed to anoint and rub their bodies with the greaſe of animals, with viſcous gums, and with oils of differ-

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ent kinds. By this they check that profuſe perſpiration, which in the torrid zone, waſtes the vigour of the frame, and abridges the period of human life. By this too they provide a defence againſt the extreme moiſture during the rainy ſeaſon. They likewiſe, at certain ſeaſons, temper paint of different colours with thoſe unctious ſubſtances, and bedaub themſelves plentifully with that compoſition.

Sheathed with this impenetrable varniſh their ſkins are not only protected from the heat of the ſun, but as all the innumerable tribes of inſects have an antipathy to the ſmell or taſte of that mixture, they are delivered from their teazing perſecution, which amidſt foreſts and marſhes, eſpecially in the warmer regions, would have been wholly inſupportable in a ſtate of perfect nakedneſs.

Savage nations, being far from that ſtate of improvement, in which the mode of living is conſidered as a mark of diſtinction, and unacquainted with thoſe wants, which require a variety of accommodations, regulate the conſtruction of their houſes according to their limited ideas of neceſſity. Some of the American tribes were ſo extremely rude and had advanced ſo little beyond the primeval ſimplicity of nature, that they had no houſes at all. During the day, they took ſhelter from the ſcorching rays of the ſun under

under thick trees, and at night they formed a ſhed with their branches and leaves. In the rainy ſeaſons they retired into caves, formed by the hand of nature or hallowed out by their own induſtry. Others, who had no fixed abode, and roamed through the foreſt in queſt of game, ſojourned in temporary huts, which they erected with little labour, and abandoned without any concern.

Clubs made of heavy wood, ſtakes hardened in the fire, lances whoſe heads were armed with flint or the bone of ſome animal are weapons known to the rudeſt nations. All theſe, however, were of uſe only in cloſe encounter; but men wiſhed to annoy their enemies while at a diſtance, and the bow and arrow is the moſt early invention for this purpoſe. The people in ſome provinces of Chili, and thoſe of Patagonia, towards the ſouthern extremity of America, uſe a weapon peculiar to themſelves. They faſten ſtones about the ſize of a man's fiſt to each end of a leather thong of eight feet in length, and ſwinging theſe round their heads, throw them with ſuch dexterity that they ſeldom miſs the object they aim at.

As their food and habitations are perfectly ſimple, their domeſtic utenſils are few and rude. Some of the ſouthern tribes diſcovered the art of forming veſſels of earthern ware, and baking them in the ſun ſo as they

they could endure the fire. Theſe veſſels they uſed in preparing part of their proviſions, and this may be conſidered as a ſtep toward refinement and luxury; for men in their rudeſt ſtate were not acquainted with any method of dreſſing their victuals, but by roaſting them on the fire, and among ſeveral tribes in America, this is the only ſpecies of cookery yet known.

What appears to be the maſter-piece of art among the ſavages of America is the conſtruction of their canoes. An Indian, ſhut up in his boat of whalebone, covered with ſkins, can brave that ſtormy ocean, on which he is compelled to depend for part of his ſubſiſtence. The inhabitants of the iſles in South America form their canoes by hallowing the trunk of a large tree, with infinite labor, and though in appearance they are extremely awkward and unwieldy, they paddle and ſteer them with ſuch dexterity, that Europeans, well acquainted with all the improvements in the ſcience of navigation, have been aſtoniſhed at the rapidity of their motion, and the quickneſs of their evolutions.

With reſpect to their religion, even among thoſe tribes, whoſe religious ſyſtem was more enlarged, and who had formed ſome conception of benevolent beings, which delighted in conferring benefits, as well as of malicious powers prone to inflict

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evil, ſuperſtition ſtill appears as the offſpring of fear, and all its efforts were employed to avert calamities. They were perſuaded that their good deities, prompted by the benificence of their nature, would beſtow every bleſſing in their power, without ſolicitation or acknowledgement; and their only anxiety was to ſooth and deprecate the wrath of the powers, whom they regarded as the enemies of mankind.

With reſpect to the immortality of the ſoul the ſentiments of the Americans were more united. The human mind, even when leaſt improved and invigorated by culture, ſhrinks from the thoughts of diſſolution, and looks forward with hope and expectation to a ſtate of future exiſtence. The moſt uncivilized ſavages of America do not apprehend death as the extinction of being: all entertain hopes of a future and more happy ſtate, where they ſhall be for ever exempt from the calamities, which embitter human life in its preſent condition. This future ſtate they conceive to be a delightful country bleſt with perpetual ſpring, whoſe foreſts abound with game, whoſe rivers ſwarm with fiſh, where famine is never felt, and uninterrupted plenty ſhall be enjoyed without labor or toil.

As the diſeaſes of men in the ſavage ſtate are like thoſe of the animal creation, few but extremely violent, their impatience un-

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der what they ſuffer, and ſolicitude for the recovery of health, ſoon inſpired them with extraordinary reverence for ſuch as pretened to underſtand the nature of their maladies, or to preſerve them from their ſudden and fatal effects. However theſe ignorant pretenders being ſuch utter ſtranger to the ſtructure of the human frame, as to know neither the cauſes of diſorders, nor the manner in which they were likely to terminate, ſuperſtition, frequently mingled with ſome portion of craft, ſupplied what they wanted in knowledge. They imputed the origin of diſeaſes to ſupernatural influence, and adviſed or performed a variety of ſuperſtitious rites, which they repreſented to be ſufficient to remove the moſt obſtinate and dangerous diſorders.

From the ſuperſtition and credulity of the Americans likewiſe proceeded their faith in dreams, their obſervation of omens, their attention to the chirping of birds, and the cries of animals, all which they ſuppoſed to be indications of future events; and if any one of their prognoſtics was deemed unfavorable, they eagerly abandoned the object they had in purſuit.

Savage as the Americans were, they were not without their amuſements; and of theſe dancing appears to be the princi-

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pul. The war dance ſeems to be the moſt ſtriking, in which are repreſented all the manœuvres of an American campaign. Their ſongs and dances are moſtly ſolemn, and martial, they are connected with ſome of the moſt ſerious and important affairs of life, and, having no relation to love or gallantry, are ſeldom common to the two ſexes, but executed by the men and women apart.

The Americans are univerſally fond of gaming. Though they are at other times ſo indifferent, phlegmatic, ſilent, and animated with ſo few deſires, as ſoon as they engage in play, they become rapacious, impatient, noiſy, and almoſt frantic with eagerneſs. Their furs, their domeſtic utenſils, their clothes, their arms, are ſtaked at play and when all is loſt, high as their ſenſe of independence is, in a wild emotion of hope or deſpair, they will often riſk their perſonal liberty upon a ſingle bet. Among ſeveral tribes, ſuch gaming parties are frequently made, and become their moſt agreeable entertainment at every great feſtival.

The ſame cauſes that contribute to render them fond of play, is the cauſe of drunkenneſs among them. It ſeems to have been one of the firſt exertions of the human ingenuity to diſcover ſome

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compoſition of an intoxicating quality; and there is hardly any nation ſo rude, or ſo deſtitute of invention, as not to have ſucceeded in this fatal reſearch. The moſt barbarous of the American tribes have been ſo unfortunate as to attain this art; and even thoſe which are deficient in knowledge as not to be acquainted with the method of giving an inebriating ſtrength to liquors by fermentation, can accompliſh the ſame by ſome other means.

It is cuſtomary with the American Indians, when their parents and other relations become old, or labour under any diſtemper which they have not art enough to cure, to put an end to their lives, in order to be relieved from the burden of tending and ſupporting them. The ſame hardſhips and difficulty of procuring ſubſiſtence, which prevent ſavages, in ſome caſes, from rearing their children, prompt them to deſtroy the aged and infirm. The declining ſtate of the one is as helpleſs as the infancy of the other; and the American thinks he does nothing more than his duty, in eaſing his father or friend of a burthenſome life of pain and diſeaſe.

A hardneſs of heart and inſenſibility of feeling are remarkable in all ſavage nations. Their minds, rouſed only by ſtrong emotions, are little ſuſceptible of

gentle, delicate, or tender affections. When any favor is done him, he neither feels gratitude, nor thinks of making any teturn. The high idea of independence among the Americans nouriſhes a ſullen reſerve, which keeps them at a diſtance from each other.

A ſavage, frequently placed in ſituations of danger or diſtreſs, depending on no one but himſelf, and wrapped up in his own thoughts and ſchemes, is a ſerious and melancholy animal. The American, when not engaged in action, often ſits whole days in one poſture, without opening his lips. When they engage in war or the chace, they uſually march in a line at ſome diſtance from each other, and do not exchange a ſingle word. Even in their canoes, the ſame profound ſilence is obſerved; and nothing but intoxicating liquors or jolity attending their dances, can at any rate render them in the leaſt converſable.

We may attribute the refined cunning, with which they form and execute their ſchemes, to the ſame cauſes. With the American Indians, war is a ſyſtem of craft, in which they truſt for ſucceſs to ſtratagem more than to open force, and have their invention continually at work to circumvent and ſurpriſe their enemies. The people

people of the rude tribes of America are remarkable for their artifice and duplicity. The natives of Peru were employed above thirty years, in forming the plan of an inſurrection, which took place under the vice-royalty of the Marquis de Villa Garcia; and though a great number of people of different ranks, were let into the ſecret, yet not a ſyllable of it tranſpired during all that period, no man betrayed his truſt, or by an unguarded look, or imprudent word, gave riſe to any ſuſpicion of what was meditating.

However, let us not ſuppoſe that the Americans were without their virtues, among which fortitude and courage were remarkably conſpicious. Accuſtomed as the Indians are to continual alarms, they grow familiar with danger; courage becomes an habitual virtue, reſulting naturally from their ſituation, and ſtrengthened by conſtant exertions. They are naturally attached to the community of which they are members. From the nature of their political union, we ſhould be led to ſuppoſe this tie to be very feeble; but each individual freely and cheerfully undertakes the moſt perilous ſervice, when the community deems it neceſſary. They have a fierce and deeprooted antipathy to the enemies of their country, and that zeal for

for the honour of their tribe, which prompts them to brave danger in the purſuit of triumph, and to endure the moſt exquiſite torments, without a groan, that it may not be diſhonoured. Far from complaining of their own ſituation, or viewing that of men in a more improved ſtate with admiration or envy, they regard themſelves as the ſtandard of excellence, as being the beſt entitled, as well as the moſt perfectly qualified, to enjoy real happineſs.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

AMBITION and avarice united to induce Velaſquez to prepare for the conqueſt of New Spain, ſo that when Grijalva returned to Cuba, he found the armament deſtined to attempt the conqueſt of that rich country he had diſcovered, almoſt complete and ready to ſail. Velaſquez knew not whom to entruſt with the command of this important expedition. Tho' he was of a moſt aſpiring ambition, and not deſtitute of talents for government, he poſſeſſed neither ſuch courage, nor ſuch vigour and activity of mind, as to undertake in perſon the conduct of the armament he was preparing. He meanly wiſhed to find ſome perſon, who had bravery and abilities equal to the undertaking, but would attribute all the honour and glory to him. After ſome time ſearching for ſuch a perſon, and finding that no man of abilities would ſubmit to ſuch diſgraceful terms, he at laſt appointed Fernando Cortes to the command. Cortes was a man of noble blood, but whoſe family was of moderate fortune: he was a good ſol-

dier, and every way qualified for ſuch an undertaking.

Though the governor had laid out conſiderable ſums, and each adventurer had exhauſted his ſtock, or ſtrained his credit, the poverty of the preparation was ſuch, as muſt aſtoniſh the preſent age, and bore no reſemblance to an armament deſtined for the conqueſt of a great empire. The fleet conſiſted of eleven veſſels, the largeſt of one hundred tons, which was dignified with the name of Admiral; three of ſeventy or eighty tons and the reſt ſmall open barks. On board of theſe were 617 men; of which 508 belonged to the land ſervice, and 109 were ſeamen or artificers. As the uſe of fire-arms among the nations of Europe was hitherto confined to a few battallions of regular diſciplined infantry, only thirteen ſoldiers were armed with muſkets; thirty-two were croſs-bow men, and the reſt had ſwords and ſpears. They had only ſixteen horſes and ten ſmall field-pieces.

On the 10th of February, 1519, Cortes ſailed with his ſmall armament to attack a moſt powerful monarch. He touched firſt at Cozumal, then at Tabaſco, and on the 2d of April arrived at St. Juan de Ulua in Mexico. As ſoon as they entered the harbour, a boat came off to them, to know

know what was the intention of their viſit, and to offer them their aſſiſtance if needful. Cortes aſſured them, in reſpectful terms, which he did by means of an interpreter, that he approached their country with moſt friendly ſentiments, and came to propoſe matters of great importance to the welfare of their prince and his kingdom, which he would unfold more fully, in perſon, to the governor and the general. Next morning, without waiting for any anſwer, he landed his troops, his horſes, and artillery; and having choſen proper ground, began to erect huts for his men, and fortify his camp.

The Mexicans treated the Spaniards with the greateſt civility, but wiſhed to divert them from their intention of viſiting the capital, where the emperor Montezuma reſided. For this purpoſe, they commenced a negociation, by introducing a train of a hundred Indians loaded with preſents, ſent from Montezuma to Cortes. The magnificence of theſe were ſuch as became a great monarch, and far exceeded any idea the Spaniards had hitherto formed of his wealth. They were placed upon mats ſpread on the ground, in ſuch order as ſhewed them to the greateſt advantage. Cortes and his officers viewed with

with admiration the various manufactures of the country; cotton ſtuffs ſo fine, and of ſuch delicate texture, as to reſemble ſilks; pictures of animals, trees and other natural objects, formed with feathers of different colours, diſpoſed and mingled with ſuch ſkill and elegance, as to rival the works of the pencil in truth and beauty of imitation, but what more particularly attracted the attention of the Spaniards, was the amazing quantity of unwrought gold and ſilver, and the profuſion of pearls and precious ſtones, the produce of the country.

Theſe rich preſents, inſtead of inducing the Spaniards to quit Mexico, made them the more reſolute to make a conqueſt of it. Cortes inſiſted on viſiting the king in his capital, and declared he would not leave the iſland till that was granted. Of all the princes who had ſwayed the Mexican ſceptre, Montezuma was the moſt haughty, violent, and impatient of controul. His ſubjects viewed him with awe, and his enemies with terror. The former he governed with unrelenting rigour, and the latter he reduced to awe by the power of his arms. However though his power and tyranny kept his ſubjects and neighbours in awe, yet he wanted thoſe quali-

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J. Ebner Del. et sculp.

Landing of Cortez in Peru.

ties of mind, which were neceſſary to intimidate and ſubdue his new viſitors.

Montezuma from the moment the Spaniards appeared on the coaſt, diſcovered ſymptoms of timidity and embarraſſment, Inſtead of taking ſuch reſolutions as his power enabled him, he deliberated with an anxiety and heſitation that did not eſcape the notice of the meaneſt of his courtiers. He ſpent his time in fruitleſs negociations with the Spaniards, and thereby raiſed their courage and conſequence.

In the mean time, Cortes was watching the opportunity to throw off all connections with Velaſquez, whoſe natural jealouſy had induced him to endeavour to deprive Cortes of the command of the expedition before he ſailed. He got the confidence of the officers and ſoldiers, and, having aſſembled a council, he reſigned the commiſſion he had received from Velaſquez, and was immediately choſen chief-juſtice and captain-general of the new colony.

Cortes owed much of his ſucceſs to the Mexican gold, which he diſtributed with a liberal hand among both friends and opponents, and thereby brought all to be of one mind. Having thus ſettled every thing to the ſatisfaction of his army, by engaging it to join him in diſclaiming any dependence

dependance on the governor of Cuba, he thought he might now venture to quit the camp, in which he had hitherto remained, and advance into the country. To this he was encouraged by an event no leſs fortunate than ſeaſonable. He received a proffer of friendſhip from the Cazique of Zimpoalla, a conſiderable town at no great diſtance. He found by their meſſage, that they were filled with ſuch dread and hatred of Montezuma, that nothing could be more acceptable to them, than a proſpect of deliverance from the oppreſſions under which they groaned. Cortes was highly delighted to find, that the great empire he intended to attack was not united, nor its ſovereign beloved.

Some officers, whom Cortes had employed to ſurvey the coaſt, having diſcovered a village about forty miles to the northward, which, as well on account of the fertility of the ſoil, as commodiouſneſs of the harbour, ſeemed to be a more proper ſtation for a ſettlement than that where he was encamped, he determined to remove thither; Zimpoalla lay in his way, where the cazique welcomed him in the manner he had reaſon to expect. He received Cortes with reſpect, almoſt approaching to adoration, and like one to whom he looked up as a deliverer From the

the cazique he learned many particulars with reſpect to the character of Monteſuma, whom he repreſented as a tyrant, haughty, cruel and ſuſpicious. Cortes aſſured the cazique, that one great object of the ſpaniards in viſiting a country ſo remote from their own, was to redreſs grievances, and to relieve the oppreſſed.

Having taken his leave of the cazique, he continued his march to Quiabiſſan. The ſpot his officers had choſen as a proper ſituation, appeared ſo well to meet his approbation, that he immediately marked out ground for a town. The houſes to be erected were only huts; but theſe were to be ſurrounded with fortifications, of ſufficient ſtrength to reſiſt the aſſaults of an indian army. Every one, even Cortes not excepted, gave an helping hand to the erecting of fortifications, ſo eſſential to the preſervation of every individual of the colony. His next care was to form an alliance with the neighbouring kings, whom he taught to deſpiſe their emperor, by gradually inſpiring them with an high opinion of the Spaniards, as beings of a ſuperior order, and irreſiſtible in arms.

Cortes perceiving that ſome of his men grew tired of their preſent purſuits, and had even formed the plan of making their eſcape to Cuba in one of the ſhips, ſaw-

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no hopes of success, but in cutting off all possibility of retreat, and reducing his men to the necessity of adopting the same resolutions with which he himself was animated, either to conquer or perish. With this view he determined to destroy his fleet and his address in persuading his followers to adopt his ideas, was not inferior to the boldness of the undertaking. With universal consent the ships were drawn ashore, and after stripping them of their sails, rigging, iron work, and whatever else might be of use, they were broken in pieces. Thus from an effort of magnanimity, to which there is nothing parallel in history, five hundred men voluntarily consented to be shut up in a hostile country, filled with powerful and unknown nations; and having precluded every means of escape left themselves without any resource but what their own perseverance and valour could procure them, and on which every thing now depended.

On the 16th of August, 1519, Cortes began his march from Zimpoalla, with 500 men, fifteen horse and six field pieces The remainder of his troops, consisting chiefly of such as from age or infirmity were less fit for active service, he left as a garrison in Villa Rica, under the command of Escalante, an officer of merit, and warmly attached to the interest of Cortes.

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The firſt war he engaged in was with the Haſcalens, who advanced againſt him with numerous armies, and attacked him in various forms, with a degree of valour and perſeverance to which the Spaniards had ſeen nothing equal in the new world. The Haſcalens, however were at laſt glad to ſue for peace, ſeeing their own people ſo dreadfully deſtroyed, while the Spaniards remained unhurt. "If (ſaid they to the Spaniards) you are divinities of a cruel and ſavage nature, we preſent to you five ſlaves, that you may drink their blood and eat their fleſh. If you are mild deities, accept an offer of incenſe and variegated plumes. If you are men, here is meat, and bread and fruit to nouriſh you." As both parties were equally deſirous of peace, matters were ſoon ſettled between them. The Haſcalens acknowledged themſelves as dependent on the crown of Caſtile; when Cortes took the republic under his protection, and promiſed to ſecure them againſt every attempt of injury on their perſons or property.

On the 13th of October, Cortes ſet out on his march for Mexico, accompanied by ſix thouſand Haſcalens, ſo that he now appeared at the head of ſomething like a regular army. As the Spaniards deſcended from the mountains of Chalco,

over which the road lay, the vaſt plains of Mexico gradually unfolded itſelf to their view. This proſpect afforded one of the moſt ſtriking and beautiful views on the face of the earth; when they beheld fertile and cultived fields, ſtretching beyond the reach of the human eye; when they ſaw a lake reſembling the ſea in extent, encompaſſed with large towns, and beheld the capital city riſing upon an iſland in the centre, adorned with its temples and turrets; the proſpect ſo far ſurpaſſed their moſt ſanguine expectations, that ſome believed the fancified deſcriptions of romance were realized, and that its enchanted palaces and gilded domes were preſented to their ſight; others could hardly perſuade themſelves, that this wonderful ſight was any thing more than a dream. As they proceeded their doubts were removed, but their amazement encreaſed.

Cortes was almoſt at the gates of the capital before Montezuma had determined, whether he ſhould receive him as a friend, or oppoſe him as an enemy. On their arrival near the city, about a thouſand perſons, who bore marks of diſtinction, came out to meet them, dreſſed in mantles of fine cotton, and ardorned with plumes. Each of theſe ſeperately paſſed Cortes, and paid the moſt ſubmiſſive obedience

obedience to him according to the mode of their country. They announced the approach of Montezuma himself, and his harbingers soon after came in sight. Two hundred persons in an uniform dress first appeared, ornamented with feathers, proceeding two and two, barefooted, and in profound silence, with their eyes fixed on the ground. A company of higher rank next followed, in their most sumptuous ornaments; in the midst of whom was Montezuma, in a litter richly ornamented with gold, and feathers of various colours. He was carried on the shoulders of four of his principal favorites, while others supported a canopy of curious workmanship over his head. Before him marched three officers with rods of gold in their hands, which they lifted up on high at certain intervals, when all the people immediately bowed their heads and hid their faces, as unworthy to look on so great a monarch. As soon as he approached Cortes dismounted, advanced towards him with officious aste, and in a respectful posture. Montezuma immediately alighted from his chair, and leaning on the arms of two of his near relations, approached with a slow and stately step, his attendants covering the streets with cotton cloth, that he might not

touch

touch the ground. Cortes accoſted him with profound reverence, after the European faſhion; and Montezuma returned the ſalutation according to the mode of his country, by touching the earth with his hand, and then kiſſing it. Montezuma conducted Cortes to the quarters he had prepared for his reception, and immediately took leave of him with a politeneſs not unworthy of a court more refined. Nothing material paſſed at this firſt interview.

In the evening, Montezuma returned to viſit his gueſts with the ſame pomp as in their firſt interview. He told Cortes, that from what he had heard and ſeen of him and his followers, he was convinced that they were the very perſons, whoſe appearance the Mexican traditions and prophecies taught them to expect, in order to reform their conſtitutions and laws; that he had accordingly received them not as ſtrangers, but as relations of the ſame blood and parentage, and deſired that they might conſider themſelves as maſters in his dominions, for both himſelf and his ſubjects ſhould be ready to comply with their will, and even to prevent their wiſhes. The three ſubſequent days were employed in viewing the city; the appearance of which, ſo far ſuperior in the order

er of its buildings, and the number of its inhabitants, to any place the Spaniards had beheld in America, filled them with wonder and ſurpriſe.

Though the novelty of theſe objects amuſed the Spaniards, yet they were not without their alarms on account of their ſafety. The allies of the Spaniards aſſured Cortes, that the Mexican prieſts had, in the name of the gods, counſelled their ſovereign to admit the Spaniards into the capital, that he might cut them off there at one blow with perfect ſecurity.

Cortes very plainly perceived that his deſtruction was intended; it was therefore neceſſary to extricate himſelf out of the difficulties, in which one bold ſtep had involved him, by venturing upon another ſtill bolder. The ſituation was trying but his mind was equal to it; and, after revolving the matter with deep attention, he fixed upon a plan no leſs extraordinary than daring. He determined to ſeize Montezuma in his palace and carry him as a priſoner to the Spaniſh quarters. The plan being properly ſettled between Cortes and his officers, this powerful monarch was ſeized by a few ſtrangers in the midſt of his capital, at noon day, and carried off as a priſoner, without oppoſition or bloodſhed. Hiſtory contains no-

thing parallel to this event, either with reſpect to the temerity of the attempt, or the ſucceſs of the execution, and were not all the circumſtances of this extraordinary tranſaction authenticated by the moſt unqueſtionable evidence, they would appear ſo wild and extravagant as to go far beyond the bounds of reaſon and probability.

On the 4th of December, 1519, Qualcopoca, the ſon of Montezuma, and five of the principal officers who ſerved under him, were brought priſoners to the citidel, formally tried by a Spaniſh courtmartial, and, though they had acted no other part than what became loyal ſubjects and brave men, they were condemned to be burnt alive, which was immediately put in execution. The rigour with which Cortes puniſhed the unhappy perſons, who firſt preſumed to lay violent hands upon his followers, ſeems to have made all the impreſſions he deſired. The ſpirit of Monteſuma was not only overawed, but ſubdued. During ſix months that Cortes remained in Mexico, the monarch continued in the Spaniſh quarters, with the appearance of an entire ſatisfaction, and tranquility, as if he had reſided there, not from conſtraint, but through choice. His miniſters and officers attended

attended him as uſual, he took cognizance of all affairs, and every order was iſſued in his name. The external aſpect of government appearing the ſame, and all its ancient forms being ſcrupulouſly obſerved, the people were ſo little ſenſible of any change, that they obeyed the mandates of their monarch with the ſame ſubmiſſive reverence as ever. Thus, by the fortunate temerity of Cortes in ſeizing Montezuma, the Spaniards at once ſecured to themſelves more extenſive authority in the Mexican empire, than it was poſſible to have acquired in a long courſe of time by open force; and they exerciſed more abſolute ſway in the name of another, than they could have done in their own.

Cortes, encouraged by ſo many inſtances of the monarch's tame ſubmiſſion to his will, ventured to put it to a proof ſtill more trying. He urged Montezuma to acknowledge himſelf a vaſſal of the king of Caſtile, to hold his crown of him as ſuperior, and to ſubject his dominions to the payment of an annual tribute. With this requiſition, the laſt and moſt humbling that can be made to one poſſeſſed of ſovereign authority, Montezuma was ſo obſequious as to comply. The act of ſubmiſſion and homage was executed with all the formalities the Spaniards were pleaſed to dictate.

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The next attempt Cortes made was to alter their religion, which had ſuch an effect upon the Mexicans, that they determined to deſtroy the Spaniards if they perſiſted in it; and even Montezuma himſelf had expreſſed his wiſh to Cortes, that he would think of returning home.

While things continued in this critical ſituation, Cortes, anxious about what was paſt, uncertain with reſpect to the future, and much oppreſſed by the late declaration of the Mexicans, he received an account of ſome ſhips having appeared on the coaſt. He idly imagined that his meſſengers were returned from Spain, and that the completion of all his hopes and wiſhes were at hand. However a courier ſoon brought certain information, that the armament was fitted out by Velaſquez, governor of Cuba, and inſtead of bringing the aid they expected, threatened them with immediate deſtruction. This armament was commanded by Pamphilo de Narvaez.

Cortes was now greatly alarmed, as Narvaez ſeemed determined to ruin him, having received orders from Velaſquez to ſeize him and ſend him to Cuba in irons. Cortes at firſt attempted to treat with his enemies; but finding that impoſſible, he marched againſt them with an army in-

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finitely inferior to their's, and ruſhing upon them, in the night, obtained a complete victory. Narvaez was wounded, taken priſoner, and put in irons.

This victory proved the more acceptable, as it was gained with little bloodſhed, only two ſoldiers being killed on the ſide of Cortes, and two officers, with fifteen private men, of the adverſe faction. Cortes treated the vanquiſhed not like enemies, but as countrymen and friends, and offered to ſend them back immediately to Cuba, or to take them into his ſervice, as partners in his fortune, on equal terms with his own ſoldiers. The greater part of them accepted the offer, and vied with each other in profeſſions of fidelity and attachment to a general, whoſe recent ſucceſſes had given them ſuch a ſtriking proof of his abilities. Thus, by a ſeries of events no leſs fortunate than uncommon, Cortes not only eſcaped from the deſtruction that ſeemed inevitable, but, when he had leaſt reaſon to expect it, was placed at the head of a thouſand reſolute Spaniards.

While Cortes was engaged in this buſineſs, the Mexicans ſeized the opportunity of his abſence to take up arms, to which they had been more particularly urged by the cruelty and treachery of Alvarado, whom

whom Cortes had left in the city, in order to take care of the royal priſoner and keep the natives in awe.

On the 24th of June, 1520, Cortes marched back to the city and took quiet poſſeſſion of his ancient ſtation. However, being too much elated with his ſucceſs, he neglected to viſit Montezuma, and embittered the inſult by expreſſions full of contempt for that unfortunate prince and his people. This being rumoured about, they flew to arms in every quarter, and attacked the Spaniards in their fortifications. Though the artillery pointed at their numerous battallions, crowded together in narrow ſtreets, ſwept off multitudes at every diſcharge, though every blow of the Spaniſh weapons fell with mortal effects upon their naked bodies, the violence of the aſſault by no means abated. Freſh men ruſhed forward to occupy the places of the ſlain, and meeting with the ſame fate, were ſucceeded by others no leſs intrepid and eager for vengence. The utmoſt efforts and abilities of Cortes, ſeconded by the diſciplined valour of his troops, were hardly ſufficient to defend the fortifications of the Spaniards, into which the Mexicans had nearly forced their way.

Cortes

Cortes was now willing to try what effect the ſight of ahe emperor would have upon his ſubjects. He was accordingly brought on the ramparts, from whence he addreſſed the Mexicans, exhorting them to peaceable meaſures, which ſo enraged them, that he was ſoon wounded by two arrows, and the blow of a ſtone on his temples brought him to the ground. The Spaniards carried him to his apartments; but he was ſo broken and dejected by the ſeverity of his fate, that he tore off the bandage from his wounds, and ſoon expired.

Soon after the death of Montezuma, Cortes found it abſolutely neceſſary to abandon the city. He attempted his retreat by night, but the Mexicans, who had watched all his motions, fell upon him in his march and deſtroyed nearly one half of his army. All the artillery, ammutition, and baggage, were loſt, and only a very ſmall portion of the treaſure they had amaſſed was ſaved. Many of the ſoldiers, having ſo overloaded themſelves with bars of gold as rendered them unfit for action, and retarded their flight, fell ignominiouſly the victims of their own inconſiderate avarice.

Cortes directed his march towards a riſing ground at ſome little diſtance, and having

having fortunately diſcovered a temple ſituated on an eminence, he took poſſeſſion of it. He there found not only the ſhelter for which he wiſhed, but, what was no leſs wanted, ſome proviſions to refreſh his men. On leaving this place they marched for ſix days with little reſpite, and under continual alarms, numerous bodies of the Mexicans hovering around them, and harraſſing them in front, rear, and flank, with great boldneſs. As the barren country through which they paſſed, afforded hardly any proviſions, they were reduced to feed on berries, roots, and the ſtalks of green maize; and at the very time that famine was depreſſing their ſpirits and waſting their ſtrength, their ſituation required the moſt vigorous and unremitting exertions of courage and activity. Amidſt theſe complicated diſtreſſes, one circumſtance ſupported and animated the Spaniards. Their commander ſuſtained this ſad reverſe of fortune with unſhaken magnanimity. His preſence of mind never forſook him, his ſagacity foreſaw every event, and his vigilance provided for it. He was foremoſt in every danger, and endured every hardſhip with cheerfulneſs. His ſoldiers, though deſpairing themſelves, continued to follow him without reluctance.

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On the ſixth day of their march, they reached the ſummit of an eminence, when a ſpacious valley opened to their view, covered with a vaſt army, extending as far as the eye could reach. The Mexicans, while with one body of their troops they harraſſed the Spaniards in their retreat, had aſſembled their principal force on the other ſide of the lake, and poſted it in the plain of Otumba, through which they knew Cortes muſt paſs. At the ſight of this incredible multitude, which they could ſurvey at once from the riſing ground, the Spaniards were aſtoniſhed, and even the boldeſt began to deſpair. Cortes, however, without allowing leiſure for their fears to acquire ſtrength by reflection, after reminding them, that nothing remained but to die or conquer, led them immediately to the charge. The Mexicans with unuſual fortitude, waited their approach; but ſuch was the ſuperiority of the Spaniſh arms and dicipline, that the impreſſion of this ſmall body was irreſiſtible, and which ever way its force was directed, it penetrated and diſperſed the moſt numerous battalions.—However while theſe gave way in one quarter, a freſh ſupply of enemies advanced from another, and the Spaniards, though ſucceſsful in every attack, were ready to ſink under theſe repeated efforts, without ſeeing any end of their toil, or any hope of victory.

Cortes now obſerved, that the great ſtandard of the empire, which was carried before the Mexican gen. was advancing. He fortunately recollected to have heard, that on the fate of it depended the event of every battle. He therefore aſſembled a few of his braveſt officers, whoſe horſes were ſtill capable of ſervice, and placing himſelf at their head, puſhed forwards towards the ſtandard, with an impetuoſity that bore down every thing before it. A choſen body of nobles, who guarded the ſtandard, made ſome reſiſtance, but were ſoon vanquiſhed. Cortes, with a ſtroke of his lance, wounded the Mexican general, and threw him to the ground. One of the Spaniſh officers alighting, finiſhed his life, and ſeized the imperial ſtandard. The inſtant their leader fell, and their ſtandard, to which all directed their eyes, was no longer to be ſeen, an univerſal panic ſtruck the Mexicans, every enſign was lowered, each ſoldier threw away his weapons, and every one made the beſt of his way to the mountains. The Spaniards, who were not in a condition to purſue them, contented themſelves with collecting the ſpoils of the field, which were ſo valuable, as to be ſome compenſation for the wealth they had loſt in the city of Mexico.

After this victory, Cortes diſpatched an officer of confidence with four ſhips of Narvaez's

Narvaez's to Hiſpaniola and Jamaica, to engage adventurers, and to purchaſe horſes, gunpowder, and other military ſtores. As he knew it would be in vain to attempt the reduction of Mexico, unleſs he could ſecure the command of the lake he found means to procure materials for building twelve brigantines, ſo that they might be carried thither in pieces, ready to be put together, and launched, whenever he ſhould want them.

While he was harraſſed and perplexed with the mutinous diſpoſition of his troops, two ſhips arrived, with a ſupply of men and military ſtores, ſent by the governor of Cuba, not to aſſiſt Cortes, but with a view to complete his ruin. His addreſs, however, brought them over to his views. He now found his army reinforced with 180 Spaniards, and twenty horſes.

Soon after this four ſhips arrived at Vera Cruz from Hiſpaniola, with two hundred ſoldiers, eighty horſes, and two battering cannon, and a conſiderable ſupply of ammunition and arms.

On the 28th of April, 1521, all the Spaniſh troops, together with the auxiliary Indians were drawn up on the banks of the Canal; and with extraordinary military pomp, heightened and rendered more ſolemn by the celebration of the moſt ſacred rights of religion, the brigantines were launched

launched. Cortes now determined on making an attack on the city of Mexico.—The brigantines no ſooner appeared before the city, than the lake was covered with innumerable canoes, which made but a feeble reſiſtance againſt theſe veſſels, manned by Europeans. The brigantines, with the utmoſt eaſe, broke through their feeble opponents, overſet many canoes, and diſſipated the whole armament with ſuch ſlaughter, as convinced the Mexicans, that it was not in their power to contend with the Spaniards on the watery element.

Cortes now determined to attack the city, and for this purpoſe he made all the wiſe preparations an able general could do; but, owing to his orders not being properly obſerved, he was at laſt repulſed, received ſome dangerous wounds and would have been taken by the Mexicans, had not ſome Spaniſh officers reſcued him at the expenſe of their lives. Forty Spaniards fell alive into the hands of the Mexicans, who ſacrificed thoſe unhappy victims, in the moſt cruel manner, to their god of war.

However unpromiſing an aſpect matters wore at preſent, Cortes had a mind that roſe above all difficulties. He ſoon found himſelf enabled to renew the attack on the city of Mexico, in which he proved ſo fortunate, that he took the emperor Guatimozin priſoner, who ſeemed worthy of a bet-

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ter fate. When the emperor was conducted to Cortes, he appeared neither with the ſullen fierceneſs of a barbarian, nor with the dejection of a ſupplicant. "I have done (ſaid he, addreſſing himſelf to the Spaniſh general) what became a monarch. I have defended my people to the laſt extremity. Nothing now remains but to die. Take this dagger, (laying his hand on one which Cortes wore) plant it in my breaſt, and put an end to a life, which can no longer be of uſe."

As ſoon as the fate of this unfortunate ſovereign was known, the Mexicans ceaſed all reſiſtance, and Cortes took poſſeſſion of that ſmall part of the capital, which had not been deſtroyed during the ſiege. Thus terminated the ſiege of Mexico, the moſt memorable event in the conqueſt of America. It laſted twenty five days, of which hardly one paſſed without ſome ſingular effort on the part of the beſiegers or the beſieged. The great abilities of Guatimozin, the number of his troops, the peculiar ſituation of his capital, ſo far counterbalanced the ſuperiority of the Spaniards in arms and diſcipline, that they muſt have relinquiſhed the enterprize, had they truſted for ſucceſs to themſelves alone; but Mexico was overturned by its own tyranny, and the jealouſy of its neighbours.

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The Spaniards were no ſooner maſters of the city, than they ſet about ſeeking for the profuſe riches they expected it would produce; but they were herein ſadly diſappointed. The ſoldiers could collect only an inconſiderable booty amidſt ruins and deſolation, and this diſappointment excited them almoſt to an open rebellion againſt Cortes. Arguments, entreaties, and promiſes, were employed in order to ſoothe them; but with ſo little effect, that Cortes, with a view to check this growing ſpirit of diſcontent gave way to a deed, which ſtains the glory of all his great actions. The unhappy monarch together with his chief-favorite, were given up to be tortured, in order to force from them a diſcovery of the roval treaſures, which it was ſuppoſed they had concealed. Guatimozin bore whatever the refined cruelty of his tormentors could inflict with the invincible fortitude of an American warrior. His fellow ſufferer, ſinking under the violence of his anguiſh, turned his ſorrowful eyes towards his maſter, which ſeemed to implore his permiſſion to reveal all he knew; but the high ſpirited prince, darting on him a look of authority, mingled with ſcorn, checked him by aſking, "Am I now repoſing on a bed of flowers?" His favorite felt the reproach, perſevered in his dutiful ſilence, and expired. Cortes was ſo much aſhamed of this horrid ſcene, that he

he reſcued the royal victim from the hands of his torturers, and thereby prolonged a life devoted to future miſeries.

The fate of the capital, as both parties had conjectured, decided that of the empire, and the provinces ſubmited, one after another, to the conquerors. Cortes, being now more at leiſure, began to form ſchemes of diſcovery, and to complete the original plan of Columbus, by finding a paſſage to the Eaſt-Indies by that quarter of the world they were in; but he did not then know that this ſcheme had been undertaken and accompliſhed.

Ferdinand Magellan, a Portugueſe gentleman, on the 10th of Auguſt, 1519, ſailed from Sevile with five ſhips, and, after touching at the Canaries, ſtood directly South along the coaſt of America, and on the 12th of January, 1520, reached the river De la Plata From hence he continued his courſe, after having conquered the mutinous diſpoſition of his crew, and at length diſcovered, near the fifty-third degree of latitude, the mouth of a ſtrait, into which he entered, in ſpite of the murmurs and remonſtrances of the people under his command. After ſailling twenty days in that winding dangerous channel, to which he gave his own name, and where one of his ſhips deſerted him, the great Southern Ocean opened to his view, when he ſhed

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tears of joy and gratitude for that happy diſcovery.

After enduring inexpreſſible hardſhips, from the want of proviſions and other neceſſaries on the 6th of March, 1521, they fell in with a cluſter of ſmall but fertile iſlands, which afforded them refreſhments in ſuch abundance, that their health was ſoon re-eſtabliſhed. This extenſive ſea Magellan called the *Pacific Ocean* which name it ſtill bears. He afterwards diſcovered the Phillippine iſlands, and was there killed by the barbarous natives.

John Sebaſtian del Cano proſecuted the expedition after the death of Magellan. After viſiting many of the ſmaller iſlands, ſcattered in the eaſtern part of the Indian Ocean, they touched at the great iſland of Borneo, and at length landed in Tidore, one of the Moluccas. He followed the courſe of the Portugueſe by the Cape of Good Hope, and, after many diſaſters and ſufferings, he arrived at St. Lucar on the 7th of September, 1522, having ſailed round the globe in the ſpace of three years and twenty-eight days.

But let us return to the tranſactions in New Spain. At the time that Cortes was acquiring ſuch vaſt territories for his native country, and preparing the way for future conqueſts, it was his ſingular fate not only to be deſtitute of any commiſſion or authority

thority from the ſovereign, whom he was ſerving with ſuch ſucceſsful zeal, but to be regarded as an undutiful and ſeditious ſubject. The court of Spain ſent a perſon to ſuperſede him, to ſeize his perſon, and confiſcate his effects; but Cortes triumphed over all his enemies, and was appointed Captain-General and Governor of New-Spain.

The jealouſies and ingratitude of the court of Spain threw ſo many obſtacles in the way of Cortes, that his government became very uneaſy to him, and the court went ſo far as to ſend perſons to enquire into his conduct, and to bring him to juſtice, ſhould his intereſted judges find him guilty. He reſolved, however, not to expoſe himſelf to the ignominy of a trial, in that country, which had been the ſcene of his triumphs; and without waiting for the arrival of his judges, to repair directly to Caſtile, and commit himſelf and his cauſe to the juſtice and generoſity of his King.

The Emperor Charles, having now nothing to apprehend from the deſigns of Cortes, received him at Court like a perſon, whom conſcious innocence had brought into the preſence of his maſter, and who was entitled, by the eminence of his ſervices, to the higheſt marks of diſtinction and reſpect. The order of St. Jago, the

the title of Marquis del Valle de Guaxaca, and the grant of a vaſt territory in New Spain, were ſucceſſively beſtowed upon him.

Cortes returned to New-Spain; but his power was ſo cramped, that he found himſelf in a very diſagreeable ſituation. He formed ſchemes for new diſcoveries, explored California, and ſurveyed the greater part of the Gulf which ſeparates it from New-Spain. On his return to his government he found himſelf ſurrounded with ſo many enemies, that he determined once more to ſeek redreſs in his native country.

On his arrival in Old Spain, the Emperor behaved to him with cold civility, his miniſters treated him ſometimes with neglect, and ſometimes with inſolence. His grievances received no redreſs, his claims were urged without effect, and ſeveral years paſſed in fruitleſs applications to miniſters and judges; an occupation the moſt irkſome and mortifying to a man of ſpirit. Cortes finiſhed his mortal career on the ſecond day of December, 1547, in the ſixty-ſecond year of his age, having experienced the ſame fate with that of all the perſons who diſtinguiſhed themſelves in the diſcovery or conqueſt of the New World: envied by his cotemporaries, and ill requited by the courts he ſerved, he has been

been admired and celebrated by ſucceeding ages.

Remarkable Events recorded in this chapter.

1518 *Cortes is ſent by Velaſquez to conquer New Spain.*

1519 *Lands his troops in New Spain.*
Deſtroys his own fleet.
Sets out for Mexico with his little army.

1520 *Montezuma acknowledges himſelf a vaſſal of Spain.*
Death of the Emperor Montezuma.

1521 *The conqueſt of all Mexico, followed by the taking of the city.*
The Strait of Magellan diſcovered.

1522 *Cortes appointed Captain-General and Governor of New Spain.*

1536 *Cortes diſcovers California.*

1540 *Returns home and there dies.*

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

THE diſcovery of the Southern Ocean by Balboa excited a ſpirit of adventure in the colonies of Darien and Panama, who ſighed after the imaginary wealth of thoſe unknown regions. Several armaments were fitted out in 1523, in order to explore and take poſſeſſion of the countries to the Eaſt of Panama, but under the conduct of leaders, whoſe talents and reſources were unequal to the attempt. They proved unſucceſsful, and thereby damped the ardor of others.

Three perſons ſettled in Panama, whoſe names were Franciſco Pizarro, Diego de Almagro and Hernando Luque, reſolved to attempt the diſcovery of Peru, notwithſtanding the ill ſucceſs of former adventurers. Theſe three men were deſtined to overturn one of the moſt extenſive empires on the face of the earth; though Pizarro was a baſtard, with very little education; Almagro a foundling; and Luque, a prieſt and ſchoolmaſter at Panama.

Each engaged to employ his whole fortune in this adventure. Pizarro, being the pooreſt of the three, undertook the department of the greateſt fatigue and danger,

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and to command in perſon the armament deſtined for the diſcovery. Almagro was to conduct the ſupplies of proviſions and reinforcement of troops, of which Pizarro might ſtand in need. Luque was to remain at Panama to negociate with the governor, and ſuperintend whatever was carrying on for the general good. As the ſpirit of enthuſiaſm uniformly accompanied that of adventure in the New World, and by that ſtrange union both acquired an increaſe of force, this confederacy formed by ambition and avarice, was confirmed by the moſt ſolemn act of religion. Luque celebrated maſs, divided a conſecrated hoſt into three, and reſerving one part to himſelf, gave the other two to his aſſociates, of which they partook, and thus, in the name of the Prince of Peace, ratified a contract, of which plunder and bloodſhed were the principal objects in view.

On the 14th of November, 1525, Pizarro ſet ſail from Panama with a ſingle veſſel of ſmall burthen, and 112 men. His voyage, however, was attended with great difficulties and hardſhips. After remaining five months in the iſland of Gorgona, noted for the moſt unhealthy climate in that region of America. A veſſel arrived from Panama. This tranſported them with ſuch joy, that all their former ſufferings were forgotten. Their hopes revived,

and Pizarro fonnd little difficulty to induce not only his own followers, but alſo the crew of the veſſel from Panama, to reſume his former ſcheme with no leſs ardor. Inſtead of returning to Panama, they ſtood towards the South Eaſt, and more fortunate in this than in any of their paſt efforts, on the twentieth day after their departure from Gorgona, they diſcovered the coaſt of Peru.

After touching at ſeveral villages on the coaſt, they landed at Tumbez, a place of ſome note, about three degrees ſouth of the line, diſtinguiſhed for its ſtately temple, and a palace of the Incas, or ſovereigns of the country. There the Spaniards feaſted their eyes with the firſt view of the opulence and civilization of the Peruvian empire. They beheld a country fully peopled and cultivated with an appearance of regular induſtry; the natives decently cloathed, and poſſeſſed of ingenuity ſo far ſurpaſſing the other inhabitants of the New World, as to have the uſe of tame and domeſtic animals. But what chiefly attracted their notice, was ſuch a ſhow of gold and ſilver not only in the ornaments of their perſons and temples, but in ſeveral veſſels and utenſils for common uſe, formed of thoſe precious metals as left no room to doubt that it abounded with profuſion in the country. Pizarro and his companions now

ſeemed to have attained the completion of their moſt ſanguine hopes, and fancied that all their wiſhes and dreams of rich domains, and inexhauſtible treaſures, would ſoon be realized.

Pizarro, having explored the country as far as it was neceſſary to aſcertain the importance of the diſcovery, procured from the inhabitants ſome of their *Llamas*, or tame cattle, to which the Spaniards gave the name of ſheep; ſome veſſels of gold and ſilver, as well as ſome ſpecimens of their other works of ingenuity; and two young men, whom he propoſed to inſtruct in the Caſtilian language, that they might ſerve as interpeters in the expedition he meditated. With theſe he arrived at Panama, towards the cloſe of the third year from the time of his departure thence. No adventurer of the age ſuffered hardſhips or encountered dangers which equal thoſe to which he was expoſed during this long period.

On their arrival at Panama, Pizarro could not prevail on the governor to aſſiſt him in the conqueſt of Peru; his aſſociates therefore ſent him to Spain to negociate, where he managed matters more to his own intereſt than to theirs. On the 26th of July, 1528, Pizarro was appointed governor, captain general, and adelantado of the countries he had diſcovered and hoped to conquer, with ſupreme authority, civil as well

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as military: thus he ſecured to himſelf whatever his boundleſs ambition could deſire.

After all the efforts of Pizarro and his aſſociates, three ſmall veſſels, with 180 ſoldiers, 36 of whom were horſemen, compoſed the whole of the armament. With this contemptible force, in February, 1531, Pizarro did not heſitate to ſail to invade a great empire.

He no ſooner landed in Peru, than he began hoſtilities, by which imprudent conduct his followers were expoſed to famine, fatigue, and diſeaſes of various kinds. However they at length reached the province of Coaque; and having ſurpiſed the principal ſettlement of the natives, they ſeized there, veſſels and ornaments of gold and ſilver to the amount of thirty thouſand peſos, with other booty of ſuch value, as diſpelled all their fears, and inſpired the moſt deſponding with ſanguine hopes.

The dominions of the ſovereigns of Peru, at the time that the Spaniards invaded them, extended in length, from north to ſouth, above fifteen hundred miles along the Pacific Ocean. Its breadth from eaſt to weſt, was much leſs conſiderable, being uniformly bounded by the vaſt ridge of the Andes, ſtretching from its one extremity to the other.

Pizarro, ſoon after his landing in Peru, diſcovered that a civil war was carrying on

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in that country. By theſe means he was permitted to purſue his operations unmoleſted, and advanced to the centre of a great empire, before one effort of its power was exerted to ſtop his career. The firſt complete information the Spaniards received of this war, was by meſſengers from Huaſcar, one of the contending parties, ſent to Pizarro, in order to ſolicit his aid againſt his opponent Atahualpa. Pizarro at once perceived the importance of this intelligence, and foreſaw ſo clearly all the advantages, which might be derived from this divided ſtate of the kingdom he had invaded, that without waiting for the reinforcements he expected from Panama, he determined to puſh forward, while inteſtine diſcord put it out of the power of the Peruvians to attack him with their whole force, and while by taking part, as circumſtances ſhould incline him, with one of the competitors, he might be enabled with greater eaſe to cruſh them both.

Strange as it may appear, Pizarro marched into the heart of the country attended by his followers, conſiſting only of 62 horſemen, and 102 foot ſoldiers, of whom twenty were armed with croſs-bows, and three with muſkets. Pizarro in the courſe of his march, received an embaſſador from the inca of Caramalca, who brought him very valuable preſents from that Prince, ac-

companied with a proffer of alliance. Pizarro according to the uſual artifice of his countrymen in America promiſed every thing without meaning to fulfil any thing but what his intereſt directed. In conſequence of theſe declarations, the Spaniards were permitted to march where they pleaſed.

On entering Caxamalca, Pizarro took poſſeſſion of a large court, on one ſide of which was a houſe, which the Spaniſh hiſtorians call a palace of the Inca, and on the other a temple of the Sun, the whole ſurrounded with a ſtrong rampart or wall of earth. When he had poſted his troops in this advantageous ſituation, and had ſeen what profuſion of riches the inca poſſeſſed, Pizarro treacherouſly ſeized on his perſon, during the interview to which the monarch had invited him. While the Inca was engaged in conference with the Spaniards, Pizarro gave the ſignal of aſſault. At once the martial muſick ſtruck up, the cannon and muſkets began to fire, the horſe ſallied out fiercely to the charge, and the infantry ruſhed on ſword in hand. The Peruvians aſtoniſhed at the ſuddenneſs of the attack which they did not expect, and diſmayed with the deſtructive effect of fire arms, and the irreſiſtable impreſſion of the cavalry, fled with univerſal conſternation in every quarter, without attempting either to annoy the

the enemy, or to defend themſelves. Pizarro at the head of his followers, advanced directly towards the inca; and though his nobles crowded around him with officious zeal, and fell in numbers at his feet, while they vied one with another in ſacrificing their own lives, that they might covet the ſacred perſon of their king, the Spaniards ſoon penetrated to the royal ſeat, and Pizarro ſeizing the Inca by the arm, dragged him to the ground, and carried him as a priſoner to his quarters. The fate of the monarch precipitated the flight of his followers. The Spaniards every where purſued them, and with a deliberate unrelenting barbarity, continued to ſlaughter the wretched Peruvians, who never attempted to reſiſt. The carnage did not ceaſe till the cloſe of the day put an end to it, when above four thouſand Peruvians lay dead on the ſpot. Not a ſingle Spaniard fell, nor was any one wounded but Pizarro himſelf, whoſe hand was ſlightly hurt.

The plunder the Spaniards acquired on this maſſacre, was far beyond every thing they had formed in their minds of the wealth of Peru, and they were ſo tranſported with the value of the acquiſition as well as the greatneſs of their ſucceſs, that they paſſed the night in thoſe extravagant exultations natural to indigent adventurers on ſo ſudden a change in their affairs.

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The captive monarch could at firſt hardly believe what he ſaw to be real, and the dejection into which he ſunk was in proportion to the height of grandeur from which he had fallen. However, the Inca ſoon diſcovered the ruling paſſion of the Spaniards, and by applying to that made an attempt to recover his liberty. He offered as a ranſom what aſtoniſhed the Spaniards, even after all they now knew concerning the opulence of his kingdom. The apartment in which he was confined was twenty-two feet in length, and ſixteen in breadth; he underoook to fill it with veſſels of gold as high as he could reach. Pizarro eagerly cloſed with this tempting propoſal, and a line was drawn upon the wall of the chamber, to mark the ſtipulated height to which the treaſure was to reach.

As faſt as the gold was brought in, it was melted down, except ſome pieces of curious fabric, which were reſerved as a preſent for the emperor. After ſetting apart the fifth due to the crown, and an hundred thouſand peſos as a donative to the ſoldiers, who were juſt arrived with Almagro, there remained 1,528,500 peſos to Pizarro and his followers. The feſtival of St. James, (July 25, 1513) the patron ſaint of Spain, was the day choſen for the partition of this vaſt ſum. Though aſſembled to divide the ſpoils of an innnocent people, procured by

by deceit, extortion and cruelty, the tranſaction began with a ſolemn invocation of the name of God, as if they could have expected the guidance of heaven in diſtributing thoſe wages of iniquity. In this diſtribution 8000 peſos, at that time not inferior in effective value, to as many pounds ſterling of the preſent century, fell to the ſhare of each horſeman, and half that ſum to each foot ſoldier. Pizarro and his officers received their dividends in proportion to their ſuperior ſtation,

The Inca having thus fulfilled his engagement, demanded his releaſe; but the treachery of the Spaniards induced them inſtead of ſetting him at liberty, to put a period to his life. He was tried and condemned to be burnt alive. At laſt the unfortunate prince conſented to receive baptiſm, and was therefore indulged with being ſtrangled at the ſtake.

Pizarro, having by theſe cruel proceedings eſtabliſhed his authority in Caxamalca, no longer heſitated to advance towards Cuzco; and, having received conſiderable reinforcements, he could venture, with little danger to penetrate into the interior part of the country. The Peruvians had aſſembled ſome large bodies of troops to oppoſe his progreſs, and ſeveral fierce encounters happened; but they terminated like all the actions in America: a few Spaniards

Spaniards were killed or wounded, and the natives were put to flight with incredible ſlaughter. At length Pizarro forced his way to Cuzco, and took quiet poſſeſſion of the capital. The riches found there, even after all the natives had carried off and concealed, either from a ſuperſtitious veneration for the ornaments of their temples, or out of hatred to their rapacious conquerors, exceeded in value what had been received as the Inca's ranſom. However, as Pizarro's forces were now more numerous, the common ſoldiers did not receive ſo much as they expected, which proved a diſappointment to their rapacity.

After all theſe conqueſts, Pizarro ſet out for his native country, and arrived in Spain in 1534. The immenſe quantities of gold and ſilver which he imported, filled the kingdom with aſtoniſhment. Pizarro was received by the Emperor with the attention due to the bearer of a preſent ſo rich, as to exceed any idea the Spaniards had formed concerning the value of their acquiſitions in America, even after they had been ten years maſters of Mexico. Pizarro was admitted into the order of St. Jago, and, after getting his authority confirmed with new powers and privileges, he ſet out on his return to Peru, accompanied by many perſons of higher rank than had yet ſerved in that country. Almagro received the

honors

honors he had ſo long deſired: the title of Adelantado, or governor, was conferred upon him, with juriſdiction over two hundred leagues of the country ſtreching beyond the ſouthern limits of the province allotted to Pizarro.

On his arival at Peru, he found Almagro in arms oppoſing his intereſt, and endeavoring to do himſelf juſtice for the treacherous conduct of Pizarro, who had engroſſed himſelf all the honors and emoluments, which ought to have been divided with his aſſociate. However, matters were accommodated between them. Their new agreement was confirmed with the ſame power of ſolemnities as the firſt, and obſerved with as little fidelity.

Cuaco, the capital city of the Incas, was ſituated in a corner of the empire, above four hundred miles from the ſea, and much further from Quito, a province of whoſe value he had formed an high ideas. No other ſettlement of the Peruvians was ſo conſiderable as to merit the name of a town, or to allure the Spaniards to fix their reſidence in it. Pizarro, in marching through the country, had been ſtruck with the beauty and fertility of the valley of Rimac, one of the moſt extenſive and beſt cultivated in Peru. There, on the bank of a ſmall river of the ſame name with the vale which it waters and enriches

riches, at the diſtance of ſix miles from Callao, the moſt commodious harbor in the Pacific Ocean, he founded a city, which he deſtined to be the capital of his government. On the 18th of January, 1535, he gave it the name of Cindad de los Reyes, either from the circumſtance of having laid the firſt ſtone, at that ſeaſon when the church celebrates the feſtival of the Three Kings, or as is more probable, in honor of Juana and Charles, the ſovereigns of Caſtile. This name it ſtill retains among the Spaniards in all legal and formal deeds, but it is better known to foreigners by that of *Lima*, a corruption of the ancient appellation of the valley in which it is ſituated. Under his inſpection, the buildings advanced with ſuch rapidity, that it ſoon aſſumed the form of a city, which by a magnificient palace that he erected for himſelf, and by the ſtately houſes built by ſeveral of his officers, gave a ſtrong proof of the grandeur it was at laſt to acquire.

Almagro, as agreed on between him and Pizarro, ſet out for Chili; but on his march, he met with ſo many hardſhips and difficulties, that many of his men died with fatigue. They no ſooner entered on the fertile plains of Chili, than they met with new difficulties to encounter. They there found a race of men very different from the people of Peru, intrepid, hardy, independent,

independent, and in their bodily conſtitution, as well as vigour of ſpirit, nearly reſembling the warlike tribes in North America. Though filled with wonder at the firſt appearance of the Spaniards, and ſtill more aſtoniſhed at the operation of their cavalry, and the effects of their fire-arms, the Chileſe ſoon recovered ſo far from their ſurprize, as not only to defend themſelves with obſtinacy, but to attack their new enemies with more determined fierceneſs than any American nation had hitherto diſcovered. The Spaniards, however, continued to penetrate into the country, and collected ſome conſiderable quantities of gold, when they were recalled to Peru by an unexpected event.

The Inca of Peru, having obſerved the inconſiderate ſecurity of the Spaniards in diſperſing their troops, and that only a handful of ſoldiers remained in Cuzco, thought that the happy period was at length come for vindicating his own rights, for avenging the wrongs of his country, and extirpating its oppreſſors. The Inca, who was the priſoner of Pizarro, obtained permiſſion from him to attend a great feſtival, which was to be celebrated a few leagues from the capital. Under pretext of that ſolemnity, the great men of the empire were aſſembled. As

ſoon as the Inca joined them, the ſtandard of war was erected, and, in a ſhort time, all the fighting men, from the confines of Quito to the frontiers of Chili, were in arms. Many Spaniards, living ſecurely on the ſettlements allotted them, were maſſacred. Several detachments, as they marched careleſsly through a country which ſeemed to be tamely ſubmiſſive to their dominion, were cut off to a man. The Spaniſh writers aſſert, that the Peruvian army amounted to 200,000 men, and with this powerful army, and their Inca at the head of it, they laid ſiege to Cuzco. During nine months they carried on the ſiege with inceſſant ardour, and in various forms. The Inca, in ſpite of the valour of the Spaniards, recovered poſſeſſion of one half of his capital; and, in their various efforts to drive him out of it, Pizarro loſt one of his brothers, and ſome other perſons of note.

Almagro arrived at Cuzco in a critical moment. The Inca at firſt endeavoured to gain the friendſhip of Almagro; but after many fruitleſs overtures, deſpairing of any cordial union with a Spaniard, he attacked him by ſurprize with a numerous body of choſen troops. However, the Spaniſh diſcipline and valour maintained their uſual ſuperiority. The Peruvians were

were repulſed with ſuch ſlaughter, that a great part of their army diſperſed, and Almagro proceeded to the gates of Cuzco without oppoſition.

The Spaniards had no ſooner got rid of their Peruvian enemies, than they began to quarrel among themſelves, and the flame at laſt burſt out into civil war. Tho' countrymen and friends, the ſubjects of the ſame ſovereign, each with the royal ſtandard diſplayed! and though they beheld the mountains that ſurrounded the plain in which they were drawn up, covered with a vaſt multitude of Indians, aſſembled to enjoy the ſpectacle of their mutual carnage, and prepared to attack whatever party remained maſter of the field; ſo fell and implacable was the rancour which had taken poſſeſſion of every breaſt, that not one pacific council, not a ſingle overture towards accommodation, proceeded from either ſide. Almagro was defeated and taken, tried by the Pizarros as guilty of treaſon, and condemned and executed, in 1538.

However rapid the progreſs of the Spaniards had been in South America ſince Pizarro landed in Peru, their avidity of dominion was not yet ſatisfied. The officers to whom Ferdinand Pizarro gave the command of different detachments, penetrated

penetrated into ſeveral new provinces, and though ſome of them were expoſed to great hardſhips in the cold and barren regions of the Andes, and others ſuffered diſtreſs not inferior amidſt the woods and marſhes of the plains, they made diſcoveries, and conqueſts which not only extended their knowledge of the country, but added conſiderably to the territories of Spain in the New World. Pedro de Valdivia reaſſumed Almagro's ſcheme of invading Chili, and notwithſtanding the fortitude of the natives in defending their poſſeſſions, made ſuch progreſs in the conqueſt of the country, that he founded the city of St. Jago, and gave a beginning to the eſtabliſhment of the Spaniſh dominions in that province.

Gonzalo Pizarro, whom his brother Franciſco had made governor of Quito, had entruſted one of his confidential officers, named Orellana, with an expedition on diſcoveries, appointing a proper place where they were to meet; but this young officer began to fancy himſelf independent, and, tranſported with the predominant paſſion of the age, formed ſchemes of diſtinguiſhing himſelf as a diſcoverer, and treacherouſly abandoned his friend and employer.

It

It is impoſſible to deſcribe the conſternation of Pizarro, when he did not find the bark at the confluence of the Napo and Maragnon, where he had ordered Orellana to wait for him; but that treacherous ſervant, after having made ſome diſcoveries, got back to Spain, and there magnified his wonderful exploits. In the mean time, Pizarro was twelve hundred miles from Quito; and, in that long march towards the capital, the Spaniards encountered hardſhips greater than thoſe they had endured in their progreſs outward, without the alluring hopes that then ſoothed and animated them under their ſufferings. Hunger compelled them to feed on roots and berries, to eat all their dogs and horſes, to devour the moſt loathſome reptiles, and even to knaw the leather of their ſaddles and ſword belts. Four thouſand Indians, and two hundred and ten Spaniards periſhed in this wild and diſaſterous expedition, which continued near two years. Thoſe that got back to Quito were naked like ſavages, and ſo emaciated with famine, or worn out with fatigue, that they had more the appearance of ſpectres than men.

Gonzalo Pizarro was not much more happy on his arrival at his government of Quito, where he found every thing in a

ſtate little ſhort of open rebellion againſt his brother Franciſco. The young Almagro, after the execution of his father, never loſt ſight of taking revenge of Pizarro. He poſſeſſed all the qualities which captivate the affection of ſoldiers; he was of a graceful appearance, dexterous at all martial exerciſes, bold, open and generous, he ſeemed to be formed for command; and as his father, conſcious of his own inferiority from the total want of education, had been extremely attentive to have him inſtructed in every ſcience becoming a gentleman, the accompliſhments he had acquired heightened the reſpect of his followers, as they gave him diſtinction and eminence among illiterate adventurers. In this young man the Almagrians found a point of union which they wanted, and looking up to him as their head, were ready to undertake any thing to promote his intereſt. Their affection for Almagro was not the only incitement, being urged on by their own diſtreſſes. Many of them, deſtitute of common neceſſaries, and weary of loitering away life a burden to their chief, or to ſuch of their aſſociates as had ſaved ſome remnant of their fortune from pillage and confiſcation ſighed for an occaſion to exert their activity and courage, and

began

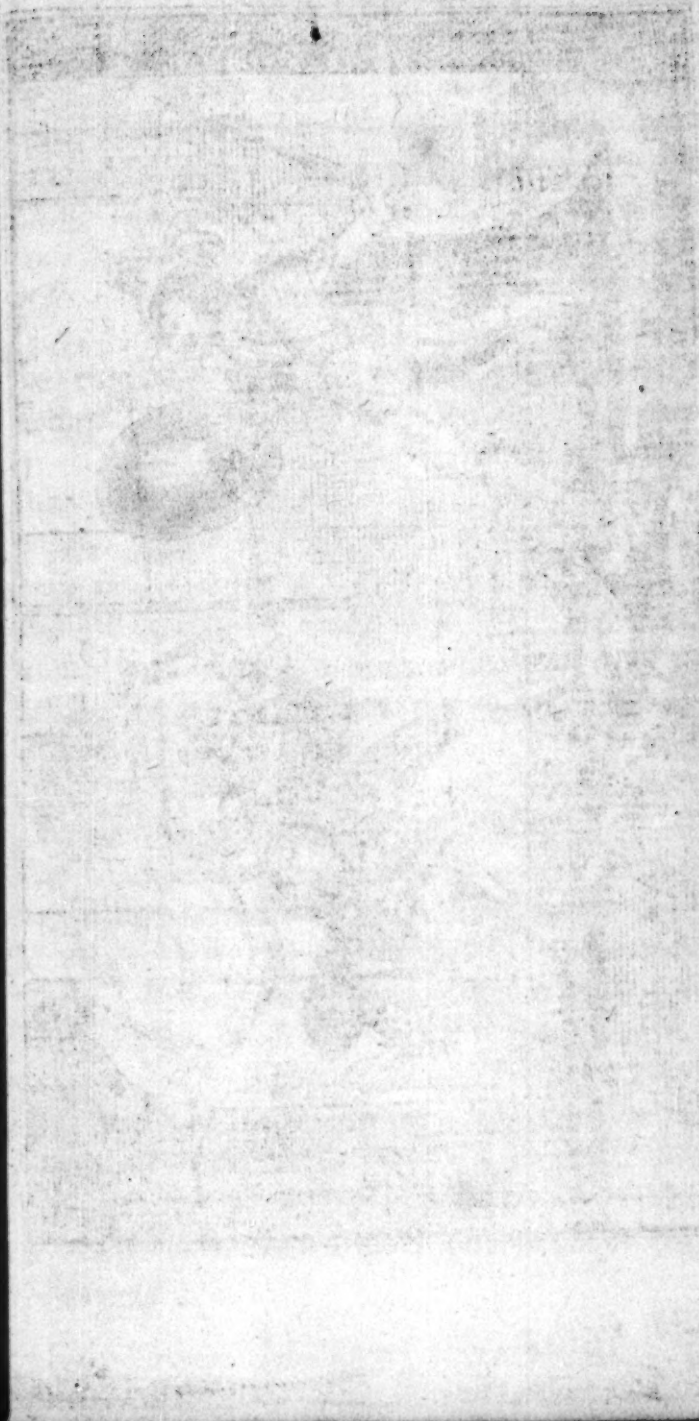
began to deliberate how they might be avenged on the author of all their misery. Juan de Harrada, an officer of great abilities, who had the charge of Almagro's education, took the direction of their consultations, with all the zeal which this connection inspired, and with all the authority which the ascendency that he was known to have over the mind of his pupil gave him.

On Sunday, the 6th of June, 1541, at midnight, the season of tranquility and repose in all sultry climates, Harada, at the head of eighteen of the most determined conspirators, sallied out of Almagro's house in complete armour, and drawing their swords, hastily advanced towards Pizarro's house. Their associates, warned of their motions by a signal, were in arms at different stations to support them.—Though Pizarro was usually surrounded by such a numerous train of attendants, as suited the magnificence of the most opulent subject of the age in which he lived, yet he was just risen from table, and most of his domestics had retired to their own apartments, so that the conspirators passed through the two outward courts of the palace unobserved. They were at the botom of the staircase, before a page in waiting could give the alarm to

his

his maſter, who was converſing with a few friends in a large hall. The governor, whoſe ſteady mind no form of danger could alter, ſtarting up, called for arms, and commanded Franciſco de Chaves to make faſt the door: but that officer, who did not retain ſo much preſence of mind as to obey this prudent order, running to the top of the ſtaircaſe, wildly aſked the conſpirators what they meant, and whither they were going. Inſtead of anſwering, they ſtabbed him to the heart, and burſt into the hall. Some of the perſons who were there threw themſelves from the windows, others attempted to fly, and a few, drawing their ſwords, followed their leader into an inner apartment. The conſpirators, animated with having the object of their vengeance now in view, ruſhed forward after them. Pizarro, with no other arms than his ſword and buckler, defended the entry, and ſupported by his half brother Alcantara, and his little knot of friends, he maintained the unequal conteſt with intrepidity worthy of his paſt exploits, and with the vigour of a youthful combatant. "Courage, (he cried) companions, we are yet enow to make thoſe traitors repent of their audacity." But the armour of the conſpirators protected them, while every thruſt they made took effect.

Alcantara



A. Reed Sculpt.

Pizarro assassinated in his Palace.

Alcantara fell dead at his brother's feet, and his other defenders were mortally wounded. The governor, unable any longer to parry the many weapons furiously aimed at him, received a deadly thruſt full in the throat, ſunk to the ground and expired.

As ſoon as Pizarro was killed, the aſſaſſins ran out into the ſtreets, and waving their bloody ſwords, proclaimed the death of the tyrant. About two hundred of their aſſociates having joined them, they conducted young Almagro in ſolemn proceſſion through the city, and aſſembling the magiſtrates and principal citizens, compelled them to acknowledge him as lawful ſucceſſor to his father in his government.

Matters were not properly ſettled, when the arrival of Vaco de Caſtro, who aſſumed the title of governor, threw every thing again into freſh confuſion. Caſtro and Almagro both took the field. The former, knowing his ſtrength to be far ſuperior to that of the enemy, he was impatient to determine the conteſt by a battle. Nor did the followers of Almagro, who had no hopes of obtaining a pardon for a crime ſo attrocious as the murder of the governor, decline that mode of deciſion.

On the 16th of September, 1542, they met at Chupaz, about two hundred miles from Cuzco, and fought with all the fierce animoſity inſpired by the violence of civil rage, the rancour of private enmity, the eagerneſs of revenge, and the laſt efforts of deſpair. Victory, after remaining long doubtful, declared at laſt for Vaco de Caſtro. The carnage was great in proportion to the number of combatants. Of 1400 men, the total amount of the armies on both ſides, five hundred lay dead on the field, and the number of the wounded was ſtill greater. Of the priſoners, Caſtro condemned ſome to death, others were baniſhed Peru, and Almagro being taken, was publickly beheaded.

The feelings of the emperor were exceedingly hurt at the recital of ſo many actions ſhocking to humanity. He perceived, that relieving the Indians from oppreſſion was but one ſtep towards rendering his poſſeſſions in the New World a valuable acquiſition, and would be of little avail, unleſs he could circumſcribe the power and uſurpations of his own ſubjects there. With this view, he formed a body of laws, containing many ſalutary appointments with reſpect to the conſtitution and powers of the ſupreme council of

of the Indies; concerning the ſtation and juriſdiction of the royal audiences in different parts of America; and the order of government, both eccleſiaſtical and civil.

Notwithſtanding theſe regulations, Peru was haſtening to the higheſt pitch of anarchy and confuſion. Caſtro however, by his wiſe and prudent meaſures, for ſome time averted the ſtorm. A viceroy was ſent over by the emperor, and, ſoon after his arrival in Peru, he was firſt impriſoned, and, after obtaining his liberty, and raiſing an army to ſupport his authority, was ſlain in battle. In this critical ſituation, the emperor ſent over Pedro de la Gaſca as preſident of Peru, who, by his moderation and good management, might have done great things, had not Gonzalo Pizarro, ſupported by a ſtrong party, aſſumed the government of Peru. Gaſca, perceiving that force muſt be employed in order to accompliſh the purpoſe of his miſſion, collected troops in all quarters.

On the 9th of April, 1548, as the two parties moved forward to the charge, they exhibited a very ſingular appearance. In that of Pizarro, compoſed of men enriched with the ſpoils of the moſt opulent country in America, every officer, and almoſt

all

all the private men, were cloathed in ſtuffs of ſilk or brocade, embroidered with gold and ſilver: and their horſes, their arms, their ſtandards, were adorned with all the pride of military pomp. That of Gaſca, though not ſo ſplendid, exhibited what was no leſs ſtriking He himſelf, accompanied by the archbiſhop of Lima, the biſhops of Quito and Cuzco, and a great number of eccleſiaſtics, marching along the lines, bleſſed the men, and encouraged them to a reſolute diſcharge of their duty, which could not fail that day of reſtoring Peru to peace and tranquility.

When both armies were juſt ready to engage, ſeveral of Pizarro's principal officers ſet ſpurs to their horſes, and went over to Gaſca, and many others ſilently ſlipped away. Pizarro, ſeeing all irretrievably loſt, cried out in amazement to a few officers, who ſtill faithfully adhered to him, "What remains for us to do?" —"Let us ruſh (replied one of them) upon the enemy's firmeſt battalion, and die like Romans" Pizarro, dejected with ſuch a reverſe of fortune, had not ſpirit to follow this ſoldierly counſel, and, with a tameneſs diſgraceful to his former fame, he ſurrendered to one of Gaſca's officers. Gaſca, happy in this bloodleſs victory, did not ſtain it with cruelty. Pizarro, and

and a ſmall number of the moſt diſtinguiſhed or notorious offenders, were capitally puniſhed. Pizarro was beheaded on the day after he ſurrendered. He ſubmitted to his fate with a compoſed dignity, and ſeemed deſirous to atone by repentance for the crimes he had commited.

Pizarro was no ſooner dead, than the malcontents in every quarter of Peru laid down their arms, and tranquility was ſoon reſtored. Gaſca then endeavored to find employment for the mutinous ſoldiers who had laid down their arms, which he did by engaging them in the conqueſt of Chili. In order to reward his own ſoldiers, he made a diviſion of the country among them, without reſerving the ſmalleſt portion to himſelf.

Gaſca, having now accompliſhed every object of his miſſion, and longing to return again to a private ſtation, committed the government of Peru to the court of audience, and ſet out for Spain on the firſt of February, 1550.

There had been no remittance of the royal revenue for four years, owing to the diſtracted ſtate of the country. Gaſca, however, on his return to Spain, carried with him 1,300,000 peſos of public money, which the prudence and good order of adminiſtration enabled him to

ſave, after paying all the expences of the war. He was received in his native country with univerſal admiration and eſteem for his abilities and his virtues, both which were highly conſpicuous. Without army or fleet, or public funds; with a train ſo ſimple, that only three thouſand ducats were expended in equiping him, he ſet out to oppoſe a formidable rebellion. But the praiſe beſtowed on his abilities were exceeded by that which his virtues merited. After reſiding in a country where wealth preſented allurements, which had ſeduced every perſon who had hitherto poſſeſſed power there, he retired from the trying ſtation with integrity, not only untainted but unſuſpected. After diſtributing among his countrymen poſſeſſions of greater extent and value that had ever been in the diſpoſal of a ſubject in any age or nation, he himſelf remained in his original ſtate of poverty and at the very time when he brought ſuch a large recruit to the royal treaſury, he was obliged to apply by petition for a ſmall ſum to diſcharge ſome petty debts, which he had contracted during the courſe of his ſervices. Charles was not inſenſible to ſuch diſintereſted merit. Gaſco was received by him with the moſt diſtinguiſhed marks of eſteem, and being promoted to the biſhopric of Palencia, he paſſed the remainder of his days

in

in the tranquility of retirement, reſpected by his country, honored by his ſovereign, and beloved by all.

Memorable events recorded in this chapter.

1526 *Pizarro diſcovers Peru.*
1528 *He is appointed governor of the newly diſcovered countries.*
1532 *Maſſacre of the Peruvians by the Spaniards.*
1533 *The Inca of Caxamalca tried, condemned and executed.*
1534 *Pizarro arrives in Spain.*
1535 *On his return to Peru, he builds Lima.*
Chili invaded by Almagro.
1536 *Siege of Cuzco.*
1538 *Almagro tried, condemned, and executed.*
1541 *Pizarro aſſaſſinated in his palace.*
1546 *Pedro de la Gaſca appointed Preſident of Peru.*
1548 *He ſuppreſſes the rebellion in Peru.*
1550 *Returns to Spain, and is made Biſhop of Palencia.*

CONCLUSION.

CONCLUSION.

HAVING now taken a review of the conqueſt of the two great empires of Mexico and Peru, very little more ſeems worthy of notice in the Hiſtory of South America than to mention a few circumſtances relative to their political inſtitutions and national manners.

According to the account of the Mexicans themſelves, their empire was not of long continuance. They relate, that their country was originally poſſeſſed, rather than peopled, by ſmall independent tribes, whoſe manners and mode of life reſembled thoſe of the rudeſt ſavages in South America. About a period correſponding to the beginning of the tenth century in the Chriſtian æra, ſeveral tribes moved in ſucceſſive migrations from unknown regions towards the north and north weſt, and ſettled in different provinces of Anahuac, the ancient name of New Spain. Theſe, more civilized than the original inhabitants, began to form them to the arts of ſocial life. At length, towards the commencement of the thirteenth century, the Mexicans, a people more poliſhed than any of the former, advanced from the borders of the Californian gulf, and took poſſeſſion of the plains adjacent to a great lake near the centre of the country.

country. After reſiding there about fifty years they founded a town, ſince diſtinguiſhed by the name of *Mexico*, which from humble beginnings ſoon grew to be the moſt conſiderable city in the New World. The Mexicans, long after they were eſtabliſhed in their new poſſeſſions, continued, like other martial tribes in America, unacquainted with regal dominion; and were governed in peace, and conducted in war, by ſuch as were entitled to pre-eminence by their wiſdom or their valour. Among them, as in other ſtates, whoſe power and territories become extenſive, the ſupreme authority centred at laſt in a ſingle perſon: and when the Spaniards under Cortes invaded the country, Montezuma was the ninth monarch in order, who had ſwayed the Mexican ſceptre, not by hereditary right, but by election. Such is the traditional tale of the Mexicans concerning the progreſs of their own empire, which, according to this account, muſt have been but of ſhort duration.

While the juriſdiction of the Mexican monarchs was limited, it is probable that much oſtentation was not exerciſed; but as their authority became more extenſive, the ſplendour of their government encreaſed. It was in this laſt ſtate the Spaniards beheld it, and ſtruck with the appearance of Montezuma's court, they deſcribe its pomp at

great length, and with much admiration. The number of his attendants, the order, the silence, and the reverence with which they served him; the vast extent of his royal mansion, the variety of apartments allotted to different officers, and the ostentation with which his grandeur was displayed whenever he permitted his subjects to behold him, seem to resemble the magnificence of the ancient monarchies in Asia, rather than the simplicity of the infant states in the New World.

The Mexicans, like the rude tribes among them, were incessantly engaged in war, and the motives that prompted them to hostilities seem to have been the same. They fought in order to gratify their vengeance, by shedding the blood of their enemies. In battle, they were chiefly intent on taking prisoners, and it was by the number of these that they estimated the glory of victory. No captives were ever ransomed or spared: all were sacrificed without mercy, and their flesh devoured with the same barbarous joy, as among the fiercest savages. On some occasions, it rose to even wilder excesses. Their principal warriors covered themselves with the skins of the unhappy victims, and danced about the streets, boasting of their own valour, and exulting over their enemies.

Their

Their funeral rites were no leſs bloody than thoſe of the moſt ſavage tribes. On the death of any diſtinguiſhed perſonage, eſpecially of the emperor, ſeveral of his attendants were choſen to accompany him to the other world, and theſe unfortunate victims were put to death without mercy, and buried in the ſame tomb.

Though the agriculture of the Mexicans was more extenſive than that of the roving tribes, who truſted chiefly to their bow for food, it ſeems not to have ſupplied them with ſuch ſubſiſtence as men require when engaged in efforts of active induſtry. The Spaniards appear not to have been ſtruck with any ſuperiority of the Mexicans over the other people of America in bodily vigor. Both, according to their obſervation, were of ſuch a feeble frame as to be unable to endure fatigue, and the ſtrength of one Spaniard exceeded that of ſeveral indians. This they imputed to their ſcanty diet, on poor fare, ſufficient to preſerve life, but not to give firmneſs to the conſtitution.

In Mexico, though the diſpoſition of the houſes was ſomewhat orderly, yet the ſtructure of the greater part of them was mean. Nor does the fabric of their temples, and other public edifices, appear to have been ſuch as entitled them to the high praiſes beſtowed upon them by many Spaniſh authors. The great temple of Mexico, the

moſt

moſt famous in New Spain, which has been repreſented as a magnificent building, raiſed to ſuch a height, that the aſcent to it was by a ſtaircaſe of an hundred and fourteen ſteps, was a ſolid maſs of earth of a ſquare form, faced partly with ſtone. Its baſe on each ſide extended ninety feet, and decreaſing gradually as it advanced in height, it terminated in a quadrangle of about thirty feet, where were placed a ſhrine of the deity, and two altars on which the victims were ſacrificed. Greater ſkill and ingenuity were diſplayed, if we may believe the Spaniſh hiſtorians, in the houſes of the emperor, and in thoſe of the principal nobility. There ſome elegance of deſign was viſible, and a commodious arrangement of the apartments was attended to; but if buildings correſponding to ſuch deſcriptions had ever exiſted in the Mexican cities, it is probable that ſome remains of them would ſtill be viſible. As only two centuries and an half have elapſed ſince the conqueſt of New Spain, it ſeems altogether incredible, that in a period ſo ſhort every veſtige of this boaſted elegance and grandeur ſhould have diſappeared.

The Mexicans have been repreſented, perhaps, more barbarous than they really were; their religious tenets, and the rites of their worſhip, are deſcribed as wild and cruel in an extreme degree. The aſpect of

ſuperſtition

ſuperſtition in Mexico was gloomy and frightful; its divinities were cloathed with terror, and delighted in vengeance. They were exhibited to the people under deteſtable forms, which created horror. The figures of ſerpents, tygers, and other deſtructive animals, decorated their temples. Feaſts, mortifications, and penances, all rigid, and many of them excruciating to an extreme degree, were the means employed to appeaſe the wrath of their gods, and the Mexicans never approached their altars without ſprinkling them with blood drawn from their bodies; but of all offerings, human ſacrifices were deemed the moſt acceptable.

The empire of *Peru* boaſts of an higher antiquity than that of Mexico. According to the traditionary accounts collected by the Spaniards, it had ſubſiſted near four hundred years under twelve ſucceſſive monarchs; but the knowledge of their ancient ſtory, which the Peruvians could communicate to their conquerors, muſt have been both imperfect and uncertain. Like the other American nations, they were totally unacquainted with the art of writing, and deſtitute of the only means, by which the memory of paſt tranſactions can be preſerved with any degree of accuracy.

The authority of the Inca was unlimited and abſolute, in the moſt extenſive meaning

ing of the words. Whenever the decrees of a prince are considered as the commands of the divinity, it is not only an act of rebellion, but of impiety, to dispute or oppose his will. Obedience becomes a duty of religion; and as it would be profane to controul a monarch under the guidance of heaven, and presumptuous to advise him, nothing remains but to submit with implicit respect. This must necessarily be the effect of every government established on pretensions of intercourse with superior powers. Such accordingly was the blind submission which the Peruvians yielded to their sovereign.

The Incas of Peru were immensely rich in gold and silver, long before they knew any thing of the rich silver mines of Potosi, which were accidentally discovered in the year 1545, by an indian, as he was clambering up the mountains in pursuit of a Llama which had strayed from his flock. Soon after the mines of Sacotecas in New Spain, little inferior to the other in value, were opened. From that time successive discoveries have been made in both colonies, and silver mines are now so numerous, that the working of them, and of some few mines of gold in the province of Tierra Firme, and the new kingdom of Grenada, has become the capital occupation of the Spaniards, and is reduced into a system no less complicated than interesting. To

Slaves at Work in the Silver Mines of Peru.

T. Reed sculp. 1790

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To return: the wars in which the Incas engaged, were carried on with a ſpirit very different from thoſe of other American nations. They fought not like ſavages, to deſtroy or extirminate, or, like the Mexicans, to glut bloodthirſty divinities with human ſacrifices. They conquered in order to reclaim and civilize the vanquiſhed, and to infuſe the knowledge of their own inſtitutions and arts. Priſoners ſeem not to have been expoſed to the inſults and tortures which were their lot in every other part of the new world. The Incas took the people whom they ſubdued under their protection, and admitted them to a participation of all the advantages enjoyed by their original ſubjects.

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In Peru, agriculture, the art of primary neceſſity in ſocial life, was more extenſive, and carried on with greater ſkill, than in any other part of America. The Spaniards, in their progreſs through the country, were ſo full ſupplied with proviſions of every kind, that in the relation of their adventures we meet with few of thoſe diſmal ſcenes of diſtreſs, occaſioned by famine, in which the conquerors of Mexico were ſo often involved. The quantity of ſoil under cultivation was not left to the diſcretion of imdividuals, but regulated by public authority, in proportion to the exigencies of the community. Even the calamity of an unfruitful

fruitful ſeaſon was but little felt; for the product of the lands conſecrated to the ſun, as well as thoſe ſet apart for the Incas, being depoſited in the public ſtorehouſes, it there remained as a ſtated proviſion for times of ſcarcity.

The ingenuity of the Peruvians was alſo conſpicuous in the conſtruction of their houſes and public buildings. In the extenſive plains which ſtretch along the pacific ocean, where the ſky is perpetually ſerene, and the climate mild, their houſes were very properly built only of ſlight materials; but in the higher regions, where rain falls, where the viciſſitudes of ſeaſons are known, and their rigor felt, houſes were conſtructed with greater ſolidity. They were generally of a ſquare form, the walls about eight feet high, built with bricks hardened in the ſun, without any windows, and the door low and ſtrait. Simple as theſe ſtructures were, and rude as the materials may ſeem to be, of which they were formed, they were ſo durable, that many of them ſtill ſubſiſt in different parts of Peru, long after every monument that might have conveyed to us any idea of the domeſtic ſtate of the other American nations, has vaniſhed from the face of the earth. It was in the temples conſecrated to the Sun, and in the buildings deſtined for the reſidence of their monarchs, that the Peruvians diſplayed the utmoſt extent of their art and contrivance. The deſcriptions of them by ſome of the Spaniſh writers, who had an opportunity of contemplating them, while, in ſome meaſure, entire, might have appeared highly exaggerated, if the ruins which ſtill remain did not vouch the truth of their relations.

The unwarlike ſpirit of the Peruvians was the moſt remarkable, as well as the moſt fatal defect in their character. The greater part of the rude nations of America oppoſed their invaders with the moſt undaunted ferocity, though with little conduct or ſucceſs. The Mexicans maintained the ſtruggle in defence of their liberties with ſuch perſevering fortitude, that it was with difficulty they triumphed over them. Peru was ſubdued at once, and almoſt without reſiſtance; and the moſt favorable opportunities of regaining their freedom, and of cruſhing the oppreſſors, were loſt through the timidity of the people.

THE END.